

Official Journal Women's Division Federated Farmers New Zealand

Diamond Jubilee 1925-1985

60

YEARS OF

SERVICE SIMPLY GIVEN



THE NEW ZEALAND
COUNTRYWOMAN

Issued from Dominion Headquarters, P.O. Box 12021, Wellington. Registered publication.

HEADQUARTERS SOUVENIR SALE ITEMS

Diamond Jubilee Items
(See photo inside back cover)

New Lines

Diamond Jubilee Tea Towel (pure linen)		\$ 4.50
Gold Teaspoons with Diamond Crest (Jubilee)		\$ 3.50
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Manicure Set		\$ 3.95
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(On sale at Conference only)		
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(On sale at Conference only)		

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Most of the above items plus Branch/Provincial stationery and Membership Badges.

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1984-85

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members,

Kia Ora Katoa — Greetings to you all.

There is a tang of autumn in the air as I write this letter and the countryside from my kitchen window has completely changed from a barren waste to lush green pasture, as the result of the recent wonderful rain that fell in the Hawkes Bay province. Earlier rain in other parts of the country had devastating results, especially for those in the Thames Valley and Piako areas and our sympathy goes to those who suffered any loss from the floods. We were pleased to be able to send \$500 to each of these provincials from our disaster fund. I would remind branches and provincials of the need to support this fund at headquarters so that we have funds available to enable us to act immediately there is a disaster in any area, on the understanding that it will be replenished from donations sent in.

This May issue of NZ Countrywoman is a souvenir copy to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee and I am very privileged to be serving as President at this time in our history. Sixty years is a long time for any organisation to be serving the needs of families, homes, schools, churches, communities and our country as a whole. While we can look back with thankfulness for those years of service by so many dedicated women, no matter in what capacity, we cannot now rest on our laurels. It is to the future we must now look if we are to survive at all. Many of our older members will have nostalgic memories of past glories and achievements and after sixty years service, surely we have gained the wisdom and experience that comes with age. I would like to challenge our younger members that, as you read of our past activities, that you too may leave your mark in our history, as they have done. We are moving in many new directions with many challenges and changes in our world today and the time has come when we must take a good look at ourselves and see where we are heading. Throughout this year we have been talking "Rejuvenation" and I feel the time is ready for some action. Some branches have increased their membership but it is also sad to hear of other branches closing or going into recess. A reminder to branches that it is necessary to give three months notice to their provincial of intention to close or go into recess. What a thrill it was for me to attend the opening of a new branch at Napier recently and to install a young president and several younger members.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will be interested to read an article entitled "Looking Ahead" written by Mr W.C.J. Williams M.A., executive officer for N.Z. Futures Trust and another article I have written called "Planning for the Future" and I hope you will all read them carefully and be aware of future activities. Dominion Council, after two meetings and much discussion with Prof. James Duncan and Mr Joe Williams have made the decision to go ahead with a planning project to meet the future needs of WDFP. If we can double our membership by 1990, or establish a number of new branches or change our directions out in the communities — the possibilities are tremendous — it will have been a worthwhile project.

So much is going on in our organisation just now with our Diamond Jubilee coming up next month. Arrangements are well in hand and we have been presented with a silver candelabra for a special raffle for leptospirosis (for sale at Conference) by the family of the late Mrs Adna Poppe and as a tribute to her. Lady Blundell, our former patroness and life member, has also honoured us with a trophy to be presented at Conference and we are very grateful for her gesture.

The Associated Countrywomen of World South Pacific Area Conference was very successful and all who attended felt it was very worthwhile. Our thanks to Miss Jean Smith our area vice president, for her organisation. Unfortunately Dr McLean, world president, was not able to come to New Zealand owing to having surgery, but we did have the deputy world president, Mrs Valerie Fisher, present. Mrs Senimile Takaveikata, leader of the Fijian delegation presented me with a beautiful tapa cloth from the Fijian women in appreciation of our support and it will have pride of place at our headquarters. We enjoyed giving 40 sewing kits made by our members to each island representative at the conference and they were highly delighted. Both CWI and WDFW gave a donation of \$500 each for the Hurricane Relief in Fiji.

Our leptospirosis project is gaining momentum with reports of activities coming to hand of all types of fund-raising. Last week the amount received was \$32,000 so our target is still a considerable way off. It has been pointed out to me that with 55 provincials aiming at each raising \$2000, our target would be over-reached. Differences in numbers are realised, of course, also the opportunities are easier in some areas, however every little helps.

WDFW now, for the first time in our history have an up to date record in one volume of all decisions made at Conferences over the years, thanks to the efforts of our executive officer and staff at Headquarters. We have found with changing personalities on our council, we have not those with the background knowledge of many issues to refer to, hence this document will be valuable for reference purposes when we are approached on WDFW policy. The nuclear issue for instance — did you know our organisation has been firmly and consistently against proliferation of, experimentation with and testing of nuclear weapons since 1956. No opinion on nuclear ships, as this is a personal issue.

May this Diamond Jubilee year be for our organisation a turning point in our history but always keeping our aims and objects as concern for women and children as in the past.

For yesterday is but a dream; and tomorrow is only a vision;
But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

(Author unknown)

Yours sincerely,
E.N. McInnes (Mrs)
Dominion President

President's Future Movements

May 1 Mangaone Br Golden Jubilee at
Ekatahuna
May 3 Anama Br Golden Jubilee

May 3-5 Visit Mid Canterbury Brs
May 7-9 Dominion Council
June 17-21 Dominion Conference
June 28-30 Visit Golden Bay Provincial
July 1-3 Visit Nelson Provincial
July 4 Hurunui Prov Golden Jubilee
July 16-19 Federated Farmers Conf.
July 30-31 Finance Meeting

May Issue

“NZ Countrywoman”

In this issue we have attempted to have a look at WDFF history and would have welcomed more material about current personalities and aspirations for the future.

Some branches may be disappointed to find that reports do not appear this time. Because of the Diamond Jubilee it was agreed that a special issue of “NZ Countrywoman” would be published. A return to the regular format will take place after the Conference issue in July.

Margaret

FLOOD DISASTER

As this issue was being prepared the tragic news of flooding in Thames, Paeroa and Te Aroha has reached us. To our many members in those areas and Coromandel and Hauraki we extend sympathy.

Just as members throughout New Zealand rallied to help Southland victims, help will be forthcoming again.

I recall how wonderful it was to get parcels from WDFF in the Thames area when we were distressed during the Inangahua earthquake.

Just to know that people outside of the stricken area were caring was a tremendous boost to our shaken spirits.

Margaret



Margaret's Column

Women's Division of Federated Farmers is sixty years old this year. So am I. We were both born in 1925 when the world had settled down after World War I and before the trials of the Depression.

What an enormous number of changes there have been in those sixty years!

One of my earliest recollections is seeing Kingsford Smith's "Southern Cross" after its epic Tasman crossing. What a huge plane it seemed to be!

More mundane, but just as graphic, are the memories of the milkman's horse and cart and our early-morning wait with hands full of grass ready to feed the horse. I remember too having a holiday in Masterton. It took four hours to go over the Rimutaka Ranges from Wellington. The train had a second engine attached at Kaitoke for the tough pull to the summit while the passengers drank tea from those gigantic railway cups and ate great doorstep ham sandwiches. As I recall it the fare was five shillings for an adult.

We stayed at Solway. It's part of the town of Masterton now, but in those days it was in the country and we rode into town in a gig — a big thrill for a child raised in the city.

I can't remember when trucks took over town deliveries. The faithful cart horses disappeared without my noticing.

Then there were the epidemics. Schools were closed for weeks and children wore camphor blocks around their necks to ward off the deadly infantile paralysis. The fever hospitals were full of children in isolation through scarlet fever, diphtheria and other diseases now rarely seen.

When I was still a youngster at infant school we were all taken to see Lord Bledisloe and lovely Lady Bledisloe at Newtown Park. The school children wore red, white or blue and together we were assembled so that the colours formed a Union Jack. I was green with envy, despite my red outfit, because I longed to be the little girl who gave a bouquet to Lady Bledisloe and receive a vice-regal kiss.

Perhaps the strongest memories are those of the household. Which mother did not wash on Monday, iron on Tuesday? Washing in those days was an all-day affair. The copper fire was lit at dawn. The "whites" were boiled, rinsed three times, blued and if-need-be starched before they were hung out to dry. In our street there was rivalry to see whose laundry was the whitest. Then the copper fire had to be cleared of ashes and the copper scoured and cleaned for next week's foray.

It was on one of those Monday mornings that I found most of the housewives out in the street hanging on to the lamp-posts. Everyone seemed frightened and I couldn't understand why the world was shaking. It was the Murchison quake and my mother was so busy washing that she didn't feel it. I ran home and said, "Mum there's been an earthquake down the street". There had indeed, just as there was in Hawkes Bay later. I can still see the convoys of ambulances and trucks laden with food and blankets leaving Wellington for stricken Napier and Hastings.

But what about baking day? It was Friday in our house. I would come home to be met by glorious smells coming from the kitchen. My mother had a gas stove that was black and shining. I used to help black-lead it when the baking was done.

Housewives were assessed by their baking. One house we went to for afternoon tea once had fourteen different plates with home-baking to tempt us.

On Saturday our house was scrubbed and polished. The carpets and mats were put out and whacked with old tennis rackets till the air was clouded with dust. The shoes were polished for Sunday and Sunday's meal was prepared — cold lamb, lettuce shredded and garnished with hard-boiled egg and Spanish cream to follow.

Before we went to church on Sunday morning the table was set with its double damask stiff with starch.

My father and I used to walk through the new Mount Victoria tunnel. There were so few cars in those days that the tunnel was frequently empty on a Sunday morning. Church was something of a torment. I remember timing a prayer that lasted twenty-five minutes.

We were not allowed to play on Sunday, except for a game of tiddle-ee-winks after Sunday School in the afternoon. Off to church again in the evening to hear a revival preacher. There was a good measure of hell, fire and brimstone in those sermons. I liked the hymns, "Shall we gather at the river?", "Jesus bids us shine," and "What will the harvest be?" They came from the hymn book Sankey, a famous evangelist, gave to the world.

All those carefree days changed in 1939. We were at war. The great ship, "Empress of Britain," was crammed with smiling men going off to fight. Little did we teenagers know that it would be five long years. To us it seemed adventurous and glamorous. We were to learn of the tragedy and sorrow later as men became heroes, were maimed and died.

There were wonderful films about the war and film stars who appeared were portrayed on cigarette cards everyone saved in an album.

Goodness, what a nostalgic ramble! Yet I am glad to have known the days of horse and gig and to have lived to see man go to the moon, television, washing machines and miracle drugs.

One thing I believe. Wherever we were born, whatever we have experienced, we must take what is good and use it well.

May WDFW go on as it began, an inspiration and help to communities throughout New Zealand, whatever the times bring.

**Margaret Wright,
PO Box 42092,
Homedale, Lower Hutt.**

Campaign "Lepto"

Pink pulls pennies

How can people in pink, and pretty plates help Leptospirosis?

The answer is simple. Hold a "P" party, and use the funds raised for research into the disease.

The West Taieri WDFP came up with a novel fundraising idea, held in Outram on March 22.

There were displays and produce tables, as well as a party in the evening, with the theme being "The big P day".

Convener, Mrs Penelope Robertson, said everything on sale or display began with the letter "P".

Everything from porcelain, painting, patchwork, purl and plain and pin-cushions, to pikelets (fresh baked every hour), photographs and pig-in-a-poke.

The fun started in the Outram Church hall at 2pm, and people were encouraged to wear pink.

The Women's Division then threw a party in the evening, with punch, pate and piano playing.

Leptospirosis information was available, and all money raised put into a New Zealand wide WDFP fund for research into the disease.

YFC give \$7865

Mrs Joan Gower, Rangitikei - Oroua provincial president, received a cheque for \$7865 from YFC members.

Young Farmers president, Dave Luty said the money was raised mainly through stock drives.

The project was initially promoted by the late Mrs Adna Poppe, a life member of both YFC and WDFP.

The club had raised the amount within four months but would continue the effort for all of 1985.

Mrs Gower described the effort as an example of how YFC, WDFP and Federated Farmers work as a family.

Thames Valley provincial raised \$300 for "lepto" through raffles, selling original leptospirosis stickers, country and western concert, fashion parade, poster and essay competition and the president opened her lily pond for donations.

Wharepapa branch held a flower show to raise money for "lepto". Exhibitors paid 5c to enter. Their entry fees, along with a raffle and sales table yielded \$104.

Walkathon for Leptospirosis

Fifty old and young members of Hawkes Bay Provincial Women's Division Federated Farmers braved the wet and blustery conditions recently by walking the 26 kilometres, in full or part, from Napier to Hastings and raised \$1500 in sponsorships for their national project of Leptospirosis research. The eldest member participating was 81 years of age and the youngest a young member from

Napier branch, in her twenties with her young daughter in a pushchair. After two stops for mother to feed the child, a sympathetic grandmother took over the responsibility of the child, while mother continued to walk the full distance. A royal welcome awaited the competitors as they arrived at Farming House, Hastings, by a group of husbands, children and other supporters.

Aims and Objectives of the Women's Division (From "And So We Grew" 1950)

The original aims and objectives of the Division set down in 1927 were as follows:

- (a) To strengthen the Farmers' Union, as it is only by the co-operation of both country men and women that this can be permanently and successfully achieved.
- (b) To better the conditions of women and children living on the land, and to improve the conditions of rural life generally.
- (c) To improve the medical and nursing facilities for country women.
- (d) To secure more domestic help on farms.
- (e) To obtain visiting help or housekeepers.
- (f) To provide Rest Homes in country towns.
- (g) To improve the schooling for country children.
- (h) To secure more frequent medical and dental inspection in country schools.
- (i) To improve conditions of migration.
- (j) To brighten the lives of all junior migrants to the Dominion, working on the land.
- (k) To develop a community spirit and encourage the ideals of Good Citizenship.
- (l) To promote the welfare of the Home, Country and the Empire.
- (m) To promote harmony between farmers and their employees.
- (n) To promote social intercourse, and the study of social questions bearing on the interests of the farming community.
- (o) To maintain a vigilant watch on all legislative measures brought before Parliament affecting country women, and to protest against such measures as are deemed injurious to their interests.
- (p) To endeavour to secure a Home Science Department at the University and Agricultural Colleges to enable country women to receive instruction in dressmaking, millinery, bottling and preserving fruits, and domestic arts, together with lectures and demonstrations on public health, child welfare, prevention of disease, etc.

Today the objectives of the Division are:

- (a) To better the conditions of women and children living in the country.*
- (b) To strengthen the Federated Farmers, as it is only by the co-operation of both men and women that Objective (a) can be permanently achieved.*
- (c) To foster and encourage any efforts made in the selection of suitable migrants to the Dominion, and to brighten the lives of all juniors working on the land.*

WD SONG

From the near and distant farm-lands,
From the upland and the plain,
In community of spirit,
Let us share our work again.
In Community . . .

May we give and take good counsel,

May the work unto our hand,
Aid the countryside to prosper,
Ease the hardship of the land.
Aid the . . .

Not by ladders unto heaven,
Nor allegiance to a creed,
But by service simply given,
Unto each in time of need.
But by . . .

Let us think and pray for others,
Absent far across the sea,
May our hearts and voices mingle,
In sweet love and sympathy.
May our . . .

**(To the tune popularly known
as "Now the Carnival is over".**

THE WOMEN'S CREED

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness;
let us be large in thought, in word,
and deed.

"Let us be done with fault-finding
and leave off self-seeking.

"May we put away pretence and
meet each other face to face with-
out self-pity and without prejudice.

"May we never be hasty in
judgement and always generous.

"Let us take time for all things;
make us grow calm, serene, gen-
tle.

"Teach us to put into action our
better impulses; straight forward
and unafraid.

"Grant that we may realise it is
the little things that create differ-
ences; that in the big things of life
we are one.

"And may we strive to touch and
to know the great human heart
common to us all, and O Lord God,
let us not forget to be kind".

Women's Division of Federated Farmers 1925-1985

FORMATION

The Women's Division Federated Farmers of NZ was formed on July 28, 1925 with two main objectives:

To better the conditions of women and children living in the country and

To strengthen the Farmer's Union, as Federated Farmers was then called.

HOUSEKEEPER SCHEME

Within two years the Emergency Housekeeper Scheme was established providing reliable help in the home for those in need.

BURSARIES

The Wdff Bursary, established 1966, the Golden Jubilee Bursary, established 1974, the Florence Polson Bursary, established 1978, and the Nellie Schroder Bursary, established 1980, each provide \$450 pa for a student for up to four years' secondary education. By 1984 sixteen students will be receiving those bursaries. Also available is the Wdff one year Bursary for a 6th or 7th form student wishing to attend a full post-primary school for a year. (These are all boarding bursaries).

PROPERTIES

The organisation owns Headquarters and "Honda" Club Rooms in Wellington and "Harris Cottage", a holiday cottage in Stanmore Bay, Whangaparaoa.

PUBLICATIONS

The official journal of the Wdff is "NZ Countrywoman" published every two months.

INTERNATIONAL

The Wdff became a Constituent Member of the Associated Country Women of the World in 1935 and full delegations attend the Triennial Conferences.

AFFILIATIONS

The Wdff is affiliated to the NZ National Council of Women and the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and has representation on the national executives of the NZ Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and the Rural Safety Committee of the Accident Compensation Commission. The organisation has one voting delegate on the Dominion Council of Federated Farmers and may appoint two voting delegates to their Annual Dominion Conference.

The Wdff Stands For Home — For Country — For Empire —

From "And So We Grew" 1925-1950



Lady Alice Fergusson

Lady Alice Fergusson was the first Patroness of the Women's Division and she will be remembered with love and admiration for her unfailing kindness and especial interest in the women of New Zealand. Lady Alice endeared herself in the hearts of the early members of the Division for her appreciation and understanding of the problems of country women.

In opening the 1928 Conference of the Women's Division,

Lady Alice said: "Anything that can be done to lessen hardships and difficulties would be well worthy of every support and encouragement. I was delighted to find the Division promoting community spirit and bringing country and town into closer touch. By developing these ideals the Women's Division is doing its share in Empire building". During the years she was in New Zealand, Lady Alice Fergusson did much to promote a better understanding and co-operation between town and country.

Past, Present, Future

Youth of to-day, to you we pass the task,
High-hearted, worthy, young and strong and free,
For life's tomorrow, this from you we ask,
Build straight and true, the new world that shall be.
From "And So We Grew" 1925-1950



The late Mrs W.J. Polson,
First Dominion President, 1925-
29.

In 1925, shortly after the formation of the Women's Division, Mrs Polson wrote, "There's been a fragment of poetry running through my mind all day —

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,

Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;

Here once the embattled farmers stood

And fired the shot heard round the world.

Here was I thinking of the Women's Division and straight-away was haunted by an echo from schooldays. It wasn't — isn't April; there were no embattled farmers at the Conference; but, stay! the connection is not so remote, after all.

It was Mr McAlpine who fired the shot that launched the Women's Division".

Later, in a message to country women, Mrs Polson said:

"The farmer and his wife are one — they are partners. How could it be otherwise, when the growth of his business daily spreads itself before her eyes? There has never been a successful farmer who was not backed by the loyal support of his wife. Women's work is different; her viewpoint is different, but when there is a definite purpose the farmer and his wife work together for that cause. It is only by this co-operation that the home and the farm is built up. The moral and social problems of the district can only be solved by the aid and sympathy of the women, when organised. The individual worker achieves very little but there is no limit to the good that can be achieved by co-operative effort; but one must not lose sight of the individual benefit that comes to each little community and each member of a branch.

"Without such an organisation as the Women's Division the woman on the land is apt to drift along with nothing to call her attention to the problems

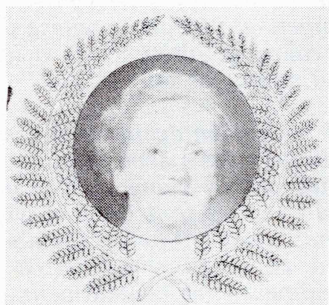
which she has been given the responsibility — a franchise freely given — of helping to solve, but let her come in contact with her neighbours at the regular monthly meetings of the branch, let her be drawn into discussion, and her outlook will be broadened a hundred-fold. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world is only true when the hand is guided by an intelligence that takes into account the world's activities. Woman's sphere extends beyond

the home to the community and the whole is greater than its part.

"The Women's Division is of distinct benefit to the community because of awakened interest in community conditions and the possibility, by organised efforts, to improve those conditions.

"It's numbers that count when one wants to get things done".

Dominion President's Message 1950



Olive Haldane

In writing these words I am aware of the great privilege and responsibility that is mine.

This book contains messages from women of vision, wisdom, and courage, women who have led and inspired the Division through its growing years and whose motto has been "service". To these pioneer women who laid the firm and true foundations of our organisation this book is dedicated. May we who follow them build as wisely and as well.

Much has been achieved in the past twenty-five years. Our Emergency Housekeeper Scheme has grown, our Rest Homes now flourish and, above all, our organisation has brought help and friendship, knowledge and understanding to many tired and lonely women. Yet if we are to continue "to better conditions of women and children" we must go forward, we must have knowledge. It has been truly said: "A nation that thinks in terms of tomorrow, moves on; a nation that thinks in terms of yesterday, perishes". Our founders, far-seeing women, thought not in terms of yesterday. They had vision. We must not rest on their achievements. We must press on.

Realising our responsibility and the power we possess, we must face the future with faith and courage, strength and understanding, so that in the years that lie ahead we may extend this work so well begun.

Lady Freyberg's Message 1950

As Dominion Patroness of the Women's Division of the Federated Farmers' I am proud to join with all our members in rejoicing on the Silver Anniversary of the foundation of our work. The Women's Division is an entirely New Zealand organisation founded with the desire to give help and service to the country women of the Dominion. During their twenty-five years of active life, our branches have done more than can easily be realised to assist women in remote districts in times of difficulty, to widen their lives with outside interests and companionship, to make available to them information and instruction on home, family and housekeeping subjects, and on many forms of crafts. The Women's Division have rendered invaluable service through their splendid Housekeeper scheme, and their beautifully appointed holiday and Rest Homes, of which there are now two Rest Homes in each island, and the Holiday

Home at Lowry Bay. These homes give to any members easy and attractive opportunity for the occasional holiday, which means so much to each one of us but particularly to women on the farms, whose daily round at all times is a long and strenuous one.

I have been deeply impressed with all I have seen of the activities of the Women's Division and I realise something of what it has achieved for its members and the added measure of happiness and contentment for which it has been responsible in numberless New Zealand homes. I join with you in hoping that the fine work of the Women's Division may be extended through the years to come and that the New Zealand country women of the future may turn to this patriotic national organisation of theirs with the same enthusiasm and willing co-operation which has blessed its work from the beginning.

Extracts from "NZ Countrywoman" 1954 on:

May-June 1954 issue carried an invitation

to members to contribute to the "new" NZ Countrywoman. That "new" publication was a slim little creature of only 20 pages. Some of its message is nevertheless relevant today.

Mrs Muriel Eastwood's editorial reminded members that a chain is as strong as its weakest link. "May there be no weak links in our chain" she counsels.

The July conference in 1954, opened by Lady Norrie, included a special ceremony at which the retiring president, Mrs Marewa Coop, accepted a bronze plaque gifted, by Mrs Allen Bell of Hamilton, honouring the foundation members of the Division in 1925. Its inscription read, "Presented by Mrs Allen Bell to honour the memory of the founders and early members of WDFW of New Zealand, 1925, whose vision and foresight have transformed the lives of back blocks countrywomen Theirs was the inspiration, ours is the heritage".

The then Dominion Secretary, Alison B. Smith, said in her note, "Retiring officers can, of course, do much to assist new and inexperienced members taking office, but this is not always possible perhaps, and I fear even when it is, it is not always done".

1985 heralds the Year of Youth. In 1954 edition ACWW notes expressed the thought

that as long as parents go on about the drudgery of farm life they cannot expect their young people to see it as anything but a blind alley which they will get out of at the first opportunity.

The writer goes on to say that parents should teach their children to be strong "without the trimmings of life" and allow them to travel to see how other people's work their lands.

The article goes on to suggest that a happy, suitable atmosphere in the home where friends can be invited and a plot of land to sew and grow what they like for remuneration is the way to keep young people content and stop their desire to go away to towns.

"Stratheona"

Ethel E. Hendrickson describes a trip to "Stratheona" where girls were trained in domestic skills.

Situated near Pleasant Point in South Canterbury the gardens surrounding Stratheona, the writer tells us, "were gay with multi-coloured flowers. The vegetable garden flourished despite dry weather, proving beyond doubt the industry of principal, Miss Baird, and the

trainees who work harmoniously together. We were impressed by the atmosphere of the hostel, Miss Baird, calm and serene, and the trainees a bright, attractive group. At lunchtime the rush of children's feet on the path reminded us that the children from Pleasant Point School buy lunch at "Stratheona", giving the girls excellent training in preparation, cooking and serving of meals and also providing a source of revenue for the hostel".

July - August 1954

Reviewing Conference

Anne Harper comments, "To many members the getting together and renewing friendships is the most stimulating part of Conference".

Regret was expressed that the journal would no longer be circulated to all members.

"The annual subscription seemed such a small amount to pay for a magazine so full of informative interest that it is difficult to understand why it did not receive fullest support".

(So we have come full-circle and in 1985 we once again have a magazine available to all members. It is certainly bigger, with 80 pages, than in those days of 50 pages and we hope that it is better too. Certainly the format has improved).

New Table Cover

Every active member of Winchmore Branch, mid Canter-

bury, shared in stitching the beautiful embroidered table cover used for the presidential table at the 1954 Dominion Conference.

In a full, descriptive letter, Mrs T.M. Watson, then Dominion vice-president, describes a tour of Britain under the sponsorship of the Imperial Relations Trust.

"The Queen Mother (at that time Queen Mary) spoke so sincerely and simply with a plea for good living, united family life. We felt it was doubly inspiring: she spoke as one of our sovereign heads and as a woman who has known the joys and sorrows of family life".

Mrs Watson attended the AGM of the National Federation of Countrywomen's Institutes and found that the remits discussed were "all things our members (i.e. WDFI) interest themselves in".

The Perfect Secretary (from an officers' school held at Pukekohe, Mrs Gwen Heron, advised the following recipe for the perfect secretary).

S: speed, serenity, sociability
E: enthusiasm, ease
C: correspondence, concise, conscientious, courteous, considerate
R: responsibility, reliability, roll
E: earnest, emphatic
T: tact, tenacity, triumph
A: agenda, alertness
R: rules, regularity, rapidity
Y: yourself.

A perfect secretary should not be:

S: slovenly
E: egotistical
C: careless
R: rambling
E: emotional
T: tyrannical
A: arrogant
R: rude
Y: yapper.

"Scotlands" — a Haven of Rest

"Scotlands" is a spacious two-storey house commanding glorious views of Waitemata Harbour and has ample accommodation for 13 or 14 guests.

As a result of splendid vision four rest homes, two in the North Island and two in the South Island, have been established.

Accommodation is available at five guineas per week to WD members and at seven guineas to non-members.

Mrs Norman Russell is the very able chairman. There are, of necessity, some rules which must be observed. One of these, a firm favourite, is that guests must have breakfast in bed. Trays are prepared overnight and in the morning breakfast of porridge, toast, tea and marmalade is served in the bedrooms.

Dainty bedspreads, cosy eiderdowns, wall-to-wall carpets, pretty curtains framing large windows, all combine to convey an air of comfort and well-being.

November - December 1954

Mrs Schroder, Dominion President, in her message to members noted that she had attended meetings in Rotorua and Waipa provincials where members were gathering for the first or second time as WDFW meetings.

"For most of these new branches conditions are very similar to those pertaining in the early days of the organisation.

Statue to Honour Pioneer Women

Headquarters' staff were housed in offices in Grant Road in 1954. A photograph of a statue erected in Ponca City, Oklahoma, to commemorate pioneer women, arrived at Grand Road WDFW offices in response to a letter from WD secretary, Mrs Smith. Mrs R. Sayre, a former president of ACWW, had mentioned the statue and its message.

The inscription below the statue of a typical American pioneer woman holding the hand of her son reads, "To preserve for the children the story of our mothers' fight and toil and courage".

The donor, Mr E.W. Marland, explained his aims in commemorating the women who toiled with their husbands to pioneer the American West.

Very much the same could be said of New Zealand's pioneer women.

"All nations, all races, all creeds gave of their best and bravest women, who became the unknown soldiers in the great battle for civilization and homesteads".

"The Cause of Peace Needs God" President Eisenhower

"Today, now the cause of a just, lasting peace desperately needs the lifting transforming power that comes from men and women, the world over, responding to their highest allegiances and to their best motives.

"The cause of peace needs God".

Mrs T.M. Watson found in 1954 Durham coalminers' wives in Yorkshire to be "the jolliest and friendliest" she had visited during her official tour of Britain.

In 1984 when these wives have experienced more than six months of industrial trouble and deprivation while miners have been on strike we trust that their jolly friendliness continues).

In 1954 these women expressed hope that they could find penfriends in New Zealand. Their spirits might well need uplifting by similar contact from WD members now, thirty years on.

Quilts and Milk go to the Philippines

Mrs H.J. McLeavey, Dominion Treasurer, began a scheme that snowballed.

One hundred quilts were sent to Manila Boys' Town which houses 400 lads taken in off the streets of Manila. Most were orphans who did not know their own surnames.

Mrs McLeavey also arranged for milk powder to go to Wellfareville where it was issued, on prescription, to the sick and under-nourished.

The letter of thanks said, "You were like an angel sent to us two years ago to announce the gift from your dear country these nice blankets are the most beautiful we have ever seen. For us they are more valuable because they are made by people with kind hearts Our boys will pray for you. That is the only way they can show their gratitude".

Quote:

From Mr R. Thomson, husband of Marsden Provincial president, in 1954.

"Life was tough in those days (the 1920's). The women shared the ups and downs and there were more downs than ups. Farming has built New Zealand. When times were tough a man wouldn't have stayed without a woman to egg him on. The part women have played has never been stressed enough".

ACWW

"Mrs Raymond Sayre, past president of ACWW, visited New Zealand and travelled to many tiny hamlets. I was living at Horopito, near Raetihi, at that time and because the school-house we occupied had an indoor lavatory and hot running water and was the only one available with such mod-cons, Mrs Sayre became our guest. (What a privilege and inspiration!)"

From NZ Countrywoman of the day she is quoted:

"If you would understand the Association of Countrywomen of the World and view its true proportions you must see it not in terms of the international and national associations, nor even in terms of its 5,500,000 individual members in 27 countries. (ACWW is now involved in 70 countries).

"You must see it as a vast, global network of small, active voluntary groups of countrywomen in literally thousands upon thousands of small communities all over the world.

"Without exception these groups are working to improve life for homes and families of their communities".

January - February 1955

Monotonous NZ Meals

Comments from:
Home Science Graduate, M.G.
Barker

"The frequency with which visitors from overseas comment on the monotony of our beautiful food must mean something".

Mr Vyvyan Holland, a Lincoln's Inn barrister:

"I find cooking here very good plain cooking. A Frenchman would not get excited about it. The desserts are really marvellous and there is tremendous imagination shown in their presentation. Perhaps it's a pity the same thing doesn't happen to meat and vegetables".

Earl McCready, the Canadian wrestler:

"All those cakes that are eaten with cups of tea!

"What cooks do with cabbage is unbelievable. It is limp and the last vestige of any goodness is systematically squeezed out and drips away through the colander".

Eric Linklater, the author:

"The natural quality of food here is so good that it deserves both skill and reverence in the kitchen. What lordly dishes a French housewife could make of it!

"But the New Zealanders, like the Scots, think more of baking and spend their ingenuity, exhaust their interest, on cakes and pastries and ebullient, vast cream sponges. Soup is neglected, meat mishandled.

"I have seen their admirable mutton brought to the table in such a miserable state that the hogget — as they call a sheep of an uncertain age — appeared to have been killed by a bomb and fragments of its carcass incinerated in the resultant fire".

A continental housewife, Mrs Von Schramm, herself a cook of repute:

"...One year of NZ fare — 365 days with meals of chops, steak, roast beef, mutton and pudding in the same dull succession. I wonder why this land of milk and beef and abundant raw material produces such a lot of shockingly unimaginative cooks".

(Well! Most of those people would be surprised to see how fare for the table has come in 30 years. To say nothing of the diversity of eating places nowadays).

Mrs Watson home again speaking of Scotland:

"Wherever I went, even in the Orkney Islands, I found that people seemed to have relatives in New Zealand. They had rather vague ideas of our geography, but usually they knew quite a lot about our living conditions".

Speaking of Ethiopia:

"Women are still workers and carriers of wood and water. They carried enormous bundles of sticks on their backs and spend hours pounding grass-seed used for baking the flat pancakes they eat. Meanwhile, the men spin and weave cloth for garments. Ethiopia could be the most productive country in the world".

Speaking of British girls:

"More and more British girls are now enrolling at agricultural colleges, intending to make agriculture their career. The proportion is very much higher than in NZ".

Ezra Taft Benson on Atomic Energy:

"Aside from the vast potentialities of the atom as a source of power on farms, the contributions of this new scientific wonder to improve plant and animal breeding may be even more startling.

"Nuclear research may make it possible to increase yields and at the same time speed up the growth of plant life in such a way that more than one crop a season may be harvested. It may also make possible mutations and other livestock advances which will completely change present marketing controls.

"Rain-making may become a normal part of crop organisation. Deserts may bloom.

"Research has already advanced enough for man to realise that the atom will teach much more about the effective use of fertilisers than is known now".

(In the year AD1985 we can only look back on comments made in optimism in 1955 and say with regret that the vision of nuclear power expressed was not the way that things went).

From Poverty Bay

A colourful ceremony was held at Tiroto School when Mrs B. Spence presented the United Nations flag, made by members, to the school.

United Nations were represented by two Indian nurses from Cook Hospital, Gisborne, Dutch, Chinese and European girls and a Maori boy, all dressed in respective national costumes.

March-April 1955

Lady Brookenborough's visit

For a day during a full tour of New Zealand, Lady Brookenborough, wife of the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, was the guest of WDFP.

After inspecting Headquarters in Grant Road she was driven out to "Honda" (then the former home of Dr Agnes Bennett at Eastbourne) with Mrs Schroder, Dominion President.

Later the Division invited representatives of all national women's organisations to a reception, hosted by Mrs Schroder and Mrs O. Haldane. International Officer featured displays of art and craft samples made by women.

Lady Brookenborough helped found the Women's Institutes of Ulster. "Being a countrywoman myself I am always interested in countrywomen and what they do".

US farmers' wives tour

"The overwhelming hospitality received from WD members and the high standard of NZ farm homes are vivid impressions of rural life 13 farmers' wives from the United States will take home.

Mrs Sample, from a farm near Indianapolis, said she did not see why, after staying in NZ homes, so many farmers' wives told her that American housewives have so many gadgets. That idea evidently came from glossy American magazines.

"Why I've never seen so many dishwashing machines as I've seen in NZ".

One thing that surprised Mrs Sample was the number of rural children in NZ who go to boarding school. "Only the wealthy who want to impress do that in the States," she said.

Riverton Holiday Home

All campers have made good use of the new kitchen block

which occupies a fine position close to the holiday homes on the three-acre site at Taramea Bay.

Mrs Alex Brown and Mrs A. McLeod visited the camp each day to ensure that the camp kitchen retained its original freshness.

Mrs Lucy Ivy Seifret

Mrs Seifret was a daughter of Mr McAlpine who inspired the formation of WD. She was a foundation member of Morrinsville branch. Mrs Seifret died in 1955 aged 64.

Vice Regal tea-party

Lady Norrie (wife of the then Governor-General) visited "Scotlands" for morning tea. Her Excellency was received by Mrs N. Russell and Mrs M. Irwin, Dominion vice-president.

On her way out Lady Norrie inspected the private beach which delighted her. She expressed a wish to be allowed to swim there, as it was so secluded — and naturally her request was granted.

Upper Hutt opens new hall

Years of planning and saving made February 16, 1955 a very important date in the history of Upper Hutt branch when it opened its new building in King St, Upper Hutt.

Attending the ceremony were Mrs Schroder, Dominion president, Mrs A.B. Smith, Dominion

secretary, Mrs Gorrie, president of Upper Hutt branch and Mrs Whiteman, president of Wellington Provincial.

"The whole building is compact, light and airy and its completion means a permanent comfortable meeting place, instead of the periodic moves from place to place".

May-June 1955

From "The Countrywoman" ACWW magazine

"Are farmers' wives happy?

We need to stop complaining and make our lives what we wish, for our opportunities are unlimited. Our own mental attitudes are all that stand in our way".

July - August 1955

From Mrs Schrod-er's message

"A member of a countrywoman's organisation in the USA gave as her reason for being a member, 'I owe a debt to other people. Long ago organised groups built a bridge for me — from a hard lonely life to one of comfort and enjoyment. Other people have worked for good roads, rural free delivery, irrigation, water, rural telephone lines, electrification and school bus services. The least I can do is build more bridges'."

Record amount collected for ACWW by way of Pennies for Friendship amounted to two hundred and eight pounds, four shillings.

November - December 1955

Mrs A.M. Berry, World President of ACWW, spent two months in New Zealand and visited a number of WD branches with Mrs Schroder and Mrs Irwin.

Mrs I.L.M. Coop, president emeritus, took over the running of Stratheona during the matron's week-long holiday. She writes:

"The three cows are a source of great interest. They are milked by the girls. Two pigs are well-housed and are looking very well and there are plenty of eggs from the fowl-yard all year round.

"A very homely atmosphere pervades the hostel.

"The social side is not overlooked. All trainees take part in the activities of their respective churches and some teach Sunday School. During the winter they play indoor tennis and other games in the hall".

Mrs Johnston of Otumoeti writes:

In March next it will be 25 years since I joined WDFW.

I had arrived a stranger in a small island town, when I saw a notice in the local paper stating that WD would be holding a meeting.

It meant a good long walk for me and my baby. The road was not good and there was a narrow bridge to cross.

I arrived at the meeting and joined up.

Then came the depression and difficult times. I was overtaken by illness.

Then the Division showed what it could do. It sent help to my home, then a doctor and sent me for a holiday to a rest home.

Personally, I feel many of us owe a debt to WDFW that can never be repaid.

September - October 1955

Mrs Schroder, Dominion president, attended the 30th birthday at Oakura (the Division's first branch). Nearly 500 members from every part of Taranaki met in the Oakura Hall.

Television — Friend or Foe?

(1955 comment)

Mr A. McKenzie, president of NZ National Party, returned from a trip abroad to brand television "a meance to children's homework in Britain and a blight on social life in Canada.

"One hundred and fifty Jewish rabbis in Britain, Canada and the USA called for orthodox Jews to ban it from their homes, as a parade of depravity".

Mrs J.W. Henderson of Auckland wrote to "NZ Countrywoman" agreeing with Mr McKenzie. She expressed some concern that in one home she had visited in America it had become the practice to serve

dinner on individual trays in the living room so that the family could watch the new television.

(What would these two souls think in 1985? Ed).

Go Pink — Go Gay

(This heading from 1955 might evoke totally different thoughts in 1985)

The article that followed runs:

"We are often told that New Zealand women dress badly, that we don't make-up as women do in other countries and that our appearance in the mass is drab.

"Italian mannequins who visited NZ displayed gorgeous garments, accessories and make-up that was most artistic and perfect, and who stimulated numbers of women to become more fashion-conscious than before.

"For the guidance of country women, Italian pink is the lip-stick colour NZ women have long envied and asked for. Now it is procurable.

"This will be great news for country women.

"Before setting out for your monthly meeting make sure you have in your handbag or basket a tube of this gala colour.

"Even if country women can't get away on holiday they can still enjoy wearing interesting clothes on the farm.

"The best beach clothes are gay and simple — cotton jackets and tapered knee pants in brilliant pastels. Not one shirt this season is to be tucked in. (They must hang straight but not sloppy).

"In fact, all is cover-up this year, not one midriff!

"Minute shorts are entirely covered by a loose shirt with sun-top beneath".

March-April 1956 ACWW

Do you know?

1. What is Associated Country-women of the World?

It is the only world organisation of countrywomen.

2. What does it do for you?

It works to improve rural conditions.

It links you with country women all over the world.

It finds letter friends for you.

It helps you to arrange exchange programmes with groups in other countries.

It offers hospitality abroad.

It provides news of other country women through a monthly magazine, "The Countrywoman".

It speaks for you at United Nations.

It provides information about United Nations.

3. What can you do for ACWW.

Help build friendship between Countrywomen all over the world by supporting its efforts to promote international understanding.

Hold an International Day and help with funding.

4. When and where does ACWW meet?

ACWW holds conferences every third year, beginning in Vienna in 1930.

At conferences every member organisation has voting rights.

5. How can you become a member?

National societies may become constituent members by paying five pounds a year. Regional groups become corresponding members for one pound a year.

Individuals may become contributing members for one pound a year.

July - August 1956

Dr Agnes Bennett OBE when commended for her gift of "Honda" (Days Bay) to WDFF said:

"Perhaps I have had more opportunities in my life than most women to make money. So what better use could I make of it than to give it to Women's Division for their use".

Dr Bennett was a medic (1914-18) with the army in Egypt and Yugoslavia. She then went in to the Flying Doctor Service in Australia and was later in charge of St Helen's Hospital, Wellington.

She eventually returned to Scotland during World War II to help the war effort.

After she retired in NZ an urgent call came from the Chatham Islands for a doctor. Undeterred by age, Dr Agnes Bennett flew off in the old flying boat to give the islanders help.

Sex Crimes (1956)

A resolution to be sent to the Dominion Conference of WDFF urging heavier penalties for sex crimes was passed at Taranaki Inter-provincial Conference.

September - October 1956

Upper Hutt branch held a fashion parade and thus raised the final thirty-six pounds which paid off the building cost of the WD hall in King Street.

November - December 1956

90th Birthday

Birthday greetings to Lord Bledisloe
from WDFF and Federated Farmers

"Birthday greetings, congratulations and best wishes from the farming community of New Zealand".

Lord and Lady Bledisloe both followed closely rural life while they occupied Government House in NZ. To this day farming trophies bear witness of that interest.

January - February 1957

Dominion President

Nellie W.D. Schroder enjoins members to live for:—

"The cause that lacks assistance
The wrong that needs resistance
The future in the distance
And the good that we can do".

She and Dominion treasurer, Mrs Rona Stevenson, visited Australia on their way to the ACWW Conference in Ceylon.

March-April 1957

Mrs Mona Frizzell was placed third equal in the final judging worldwide of the ACWW essay competition entitled, "How is the organisation to which I belong contributing to world peace?"

May-June 1957

ACWW hymn, to the tune Finlandia, was introduced to members with the proposal that it be sung on International Night at Dominion Conference.

July-August 1957

Mrs Schroder, Dominion president, and Mrs Haldane, International Officer, wrote farewell messages to members.

Mrs Schroder: "I hope that we will be inspired to greater and better efforts for peace and understanding, since the first aim of ACWW is to promote international goodwill, friendship and understanding between the countrywomen of the world".

Mrs Haldane: "Already we have walked forward a little way. I pray then, that with compassion in our hearts, brave eyes and steady feet we may go forward together".

September - October 1957

Mrs R.D. Eastwood, newly-elected Dominion president, is featured on the front cover. The first branch meeting attended by Mrs Eastwood, as president, was Lower Hutt. She later visited Wairarapa Provincial, the first to reach 30 years.

November - December 1957

Mrs N.W.B. Schroder, International Officer, on her return from ACWW Conference in Ceylon reported on visits to several Asian countries. In Thailand she visited an experimental farm where an FAO expert hoped to introduce other crops into the fields where farmers already grew their rice. In this way he hoped that a varied yield could be harvested without interfering with the staple, rice crop.

Wool labelling

Mrs D.R. Jackson's comprehensive article, written in pre-woolmark days, expresses concern on numerous grounds, that inferior wool is not appropriately labelled.

"The Act, as it stands, is no protection against the low-wearing fibre (shoddy), which is a substitute for wool and a competitive fibre.

"If provincial and branch officers would see that their members realised the need for protection against the undisclosed use of reworked wool and get members to make intelligent, searching enquiries when they are shopping, correct wool labelling might be achieved.

"The aim is to get a better Wool Labelling Act and thus protect the good name and stability of one of New Zealand's main exports — virgin wool".

J a n u a r y - February 1958

Poolburn-Moa Creek branch served dinner to seventy-five guests prior to a debutante ball at which eleven young ladies made their debut.

Mr Andrew spoke to the girls upon the new state they were entering with its new freedom and new responsibilities. He referred to the rapid changes of the last fifty years and the still more rapid changes to be expected in the next ten years.

Mr Andrew concluded by saying that the misery of the world in recent years had been caused by power-seeking individuals, but had those men had good and wise women beside them, world history might have been changed.

(Mr Andrew could scarcely have known how prophetic his prediction for the following ten years would be. Almost to the day, ten years later, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Ed).

Front cover picture shows Miss Muriel Polson, Wanganui, a foundation member of WDFU, Dominion life member, cutting the 30th birthday cake of Okoia branch.

WD today remembers Miss Polson in a scholarship.

March-April 1958

The History of ACWW

The year 1797 is the first recorded date of the founding of an organisation of farm women. In that year Finland recognised the Agricultural Women's Organisation.

By 1813 the Finnish Economic Association had invited its first woman member to join, and as early as 1870 the country-woman's work was gaining acceptance as a valuable contribution to the national economy.

The first Women's Institute was formed at Stoney Creek in Ontario, Canada in 1897, because a little boy had died through drinking impure milk. The first institute in Britain was opened in Wales in 1915.

In Germany and Denmark the emancipation of women gave rise to their organisation. In Norway and Australia loneliness was the common, binding factor.

The first clearly visible step towards an international organisation was taken in 1923.

Mrs Alfred Watt sailed from Canada to Paris to attend the Agricultural Congress. In her pocket Mrs Watt had a copy of the draft constitution of an International Federation of Women's Institutes. Four years later the time was ripe for Mrs Watt to bring her plan to Lady Aberdeen.

Lady Aberdeen, a person of prestige and power, gave it her support and in 1929 the International Conference of Rural Women's Organisations was opened in London with Lady Aberdeen in the chair.

Miss Zimmern, general secretary, organised a second conference in Vienna in 1930 which began the Triennial Conference routine which still prevails.

At Stockholm in 1933 the delegates found themselves part of the Associated Countrywomen of the World "constituted, christened and launched upon the world".

July-August 1958

Kainga Moe, the much-loved rest home and training centre was lost by fire. The flames spread so quickly that nothing was saved. Miss Salisbury and her staff helped guests to escape the disaster and later was a guest of Dominion Officers at a function for Miss Salisbury, Miss Hagley and the three

young Maori trainees who had been resident at Kainga Moe. Mr Blair Tennant, Mayor of Palmerston North, and Mrs Tennant, attended the social afternoon along with representatives of nearby provincial executives.

Miss Salisbury received Dominion life membership.

So Kainga Moe became past history, but its achievements remain as part of the undying spirit of WDFF.

September - October 1958

Waikato had presented a remit urging the setting up of Education Scholarships for children of WD members. A similar scheme was operative in Australia. Mrs Schroder outlined the Australian scheme and thus paved the way for the WDFF scholarships that are now an expanding part of WD's operations.

November - December 1958 (Abridged)

Thoughts on our Creed by a member from Herbert branch says:

"You must not forget that this is really a prayer asking God to help us aspire to these ideals. The first petition is that we should be kept from pettiness — that means smallness or littleness of outlook, from making mountains out of molehills, from being touchy or easily offended. We are instead to be large in our thinking, our speaking, our actions.

"We are not to put ourselves first. We should realise that we too make mistakes. We are to be sincere in our judgement of ourselves as well as others.

"May we never be hasty in judgement". It's so easy to do this — to jump to conclusions without knowing the real motive behind what is said or done.

"Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle". Goodness and serenity go hand in hand. Only what we have wrought into our lives can we take with us to eternity.

"Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid". So often we are afraid of what others will think, or of what they will say. We see opportunities for doing good or rectifying a wrong, but we let the chance go by for want of courage.

"Grant that we may realise it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are one". It is undoubtedly the spiteful, mean and catty things that create trouble, the trivial things that are not worth bothering about.

We are one in the big things of life — our desire for justice, freedom, righteousness and peace. Unfortunately, it often takes a national disaster to bring out the best in us. When calamity comes we forget trivia.

As women we should have the same underlying feelings and desires, however much we may differ in outward appearance. This band should unite us with women the world over.

"And, oh Lord, let us not forget to be kind". St Paul's

words in Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 32 sums it up.

"And be ye kind one to another, even as God, for Christ's sake has forgiven you".

January — February 1959

Mrs Eastwood began the year by quoting from the bronze plaque in the entrance hall at WD Headquarters in Wellington (formerly 105 Grant Rd).

It dedicates the building at 25 Hawkestone Street to:

"The memory of the founders and early members whose vision and foresight transformed the lives of back blocks' country women.

Theirs was the inspiration, ours the inheritance."

(In our Diamond year that plaque is a noble reminder that although the memory of the past may stir us, the present is ours in which to lay foundation for the future. Ed.)

March — April 1959

The Scottish Rural Women's Institutes sent an article telling something of Scotland preliminary to the ACWW 9th triennial conference being held there in the following year.

In it the writers ask,
"What kind of people are the Scots?"

Well, there are those who have said they are dour and stubborn. There are those who have said they are parsimonious, others doubt their sense of humour, but with due modesty they are willing to leave the judgement to the visitor. But there is one virtue they cherish and which has never been denied — they are a hospitable race. They like to be visited and they like to make their visitors feel they are welcome."

May — June 1959

(Written when television was new to NZ.)

The field of television is something that the women of New Zealand must chose and choose emphatically in. What kind of programme is to come with this new mechanical form of entertainment?

Other countries have learned through bitter experience that certain types of programmes bombarded into their homes, through television, have had a corrupting effect upon whole communities. We must learn from their experience and see to it that television brings only benefit to New Zealand.

July — August 1959

**Precis "The Story of
Dominion
Headquarters"**

In the early years the office work was done voluntarily. Mrs C.C. Jackson, first Dominion Treasurer, worked from her diningroom.

For a time headquarters were in Wanganui, the centre nearest the home of Mrs W.J. Polson, Dominion President. Valuable assistance came from the offices of the Farmers' Union in both Wellington and Wanganui.

In 1928 the first salaried national secretary was engaged, and headquarters moved to Wellington where an office was opened in the D.I.C. building.

Later a move was made to the Dominion Farmers' Institute building and then to an up-to-date office in Brandon Street.

Large rooms at 114 The Terrace became available from the Presbyterian Church and were used until after World War II when the church required the property for its expanding work.

25 Hawkestone Street was purchased in 1957 and in December 1958 32 Hawkestone Street became "Honda", a residential club. The legacy made to WDFB by Dr Agnes Bennett of her home in Lowry Bay was a substantial help.

Members are always welcome at both 25 and 32 Hawkestone Street.

January — February 1960

The inaugural meeting of the Chatham Islands' WDFB was held on October 8, 1959 in Waitangi Hall. Twelve were pre-

sent of which seven enrolled as WD members.

Mrs Harris who called the meeting was a member in NZ and did a great deal to promote interest within the Chathams.

March — April 1960

Mrs A.G. Schroder is a member of the NZ Standards' Institute, nominated by the National Co-ordinating Committee of Wdff and CWI.

She presented views on standards to be aimed at by manufacturers of clothing and the sizes marked on garments.

NZ textile and garment manufacturers agreed to a national system for the size marking of garments.

May — JUNE 1960

Lady Aberdeen Scholarship

Lady Aberdeen who first chaired ACWW was well grounded in rural life. Both her husband and her father were Scottish landowners. Until her death in 1939 she never ceased to watch over the growth of ACWW.

The project established to honour her memory is a permanent scholarship fund for training voluntary and qualified leaders in the fields of home economics and rural community affairs.

July — August 1960

Mrs N.W.B. Schroder visited the fledgling branch on the Chatham Islands travelling by the small steamer which had its passage times controlled by cargo loading and weather conditions.

On her return Mrs Schroder said:

"I have revised my impressions that the islands are wild, rugged and barren. The main island is rolling country, and there is a large area of peat which could be developed if the cost of machinery and top dressing were not such a hurdle.

Isolation is indeed the root of all their problems.

The WD branch is keen to explore the possibilities of running a housekeeper service on the islands, or alternatively organising a roster of members who will look after families of women who are sick or have to make the arduous journey to NZ.

October — November 1961

Mrs A.B. Smith, Dominion Secretary 1935-61 is featured on the front cover.

Mrs Ellenor C. Watson, Dominion President, gave members the theme "Youth" to work for. 1985 is Youth Year too, world wide.

Youth

"Youth thinks itself the goal of each old life. Age has but travelled from a far-off time just to be ready for youth's service."

— George Eliot.

January — February 1962

Shortly after Mrs A.B. Smith, Dominion Secretary for 26 years, was farewelled from Headquarters, she died.

After a very short illness, Mrs Smith, who had looked forward to a busy retirement, was mourned by Wdff throughout New Zealand.

December 1973

Mrs Rae McKenzie reports on the residential seminar held at Ilam on "Women and the Law".

Arranged by the Canterbury Regional Co-ordinating Committee, it was attended by more than 60 members of Wdff and CWI.

Mrs J.N. Bryant, Dominion President and chairperson of the National Co-ordinating Committee chaired the seminar arranged by Mrs A.D. Talbot.

Mrs McKenzie concludes her report by saying that seminars of that nature should have high priority in the interests of furthering adult education.

April 1975 front cover pictures Mrs Pamela L'Estrange, Dominion Secretary 1964-75 with the quote, "Women's Division is richer for her years of service."

October 1975

There are many gaps in the extracts from "NZ Countrywoman".

We have attempted to provide a pot-pourri which includes a selection of events that marked WD's progress.

We will stop here in 1975 — just ten years ago when WD was fifty.

An extract from the 50th birthday report from Oakura branch (WD's first branch) seems an appropriate conclusion.

Mrs O.A. Wells, Dominion President of the day, said "Mrs Helen Harris was responsible for starting the first branch of WDFU. The Division had a small beginning. Ten enthusiastic members met at Mrs Harris's home."

Well done, Mrs Harris.

Wdff is still alive and well. Directions may have changed over the years, but the fundamental aims have stood firm and will endure into the future.

Margaret



Tiny woman,
obvious in her pain
stiffly rises
slow from the armchair.

As always
she serves others
willingly, lovingly,
smiles on her wrinkly face.

Though she limps,
takes sideways steps and stairs,
no trouble, no bother!
serving takes precedence over
pain!

Marion Davey

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT 'REJUVENATION' 'Planning for the Future'

All organisations come into being in order to serve the social needs of their times.

As times change the aims may need to be reviewed and we must look at the needs of the present and the foreseeable future in the light of those changing needs. Planning ahead will not resolve all our problems and it is never easy; but the vision of our founders carried us forward this far. By looking at our present activities and getting our priorities to meet the needs of members and the community in which we live, that is the challenge we must face up to.

After much discussion at two meetings with Prof. James Duncan OBE and Mr W.C.J. Williams MA who are both voluntary workers for the NZ Futures Trust, Dominion Council has made the decision to go ahead with a proposal for a long term planning project to meet the future needs of Wdff and the communities they serve. It is not envisaged this is to be a lengthy project, but with the co-operation of members, will, I am sure prove a challenging exercise.

To date a **Task Force** or steering committee, chaired by Dominion president or

substitute, and comprising Mesdames A. Jones, G. Talbot and M. Millard and Mr J. Williams and our executive officer who will co-ordinate, plan and report on progress.

A Planning Committee to undertake most of the routine work has been appointed as follows:

Dominion Council Reps: Mesdames McInnes, Jones, Millard, McIntyre, McRae.

Ex Dom Council: Mesdames Talbot, R. McKenzie.

Ex Provincials: Mesdames Airini, Pottinger and Jennifer Gravatt.

Ex Branches: Mesdames Lois Molloy and Louise Avery.

Others: Mrs Jenni Vernon, YFC Past Pres, Mr P. Elworthy (tentative).

Our aim is to develop plans for action in key areas starting with membership, services to members and communities, our organisation, finances, communication, public relations etc and getting our priorities for future activities as we progress into our next sixty years.

E.N. McInnes
Dominion President

PROJECT REJUVENATION

'Looking Ahead' is what the New Zealand Futures Trust is all about. Professor James Duncan, Chairman of the Trust and J.R. Williams, a business consultant, discussed this topic at a recent meeting with some of our Councillors.

A truism borne out by everyday experience is that social organisations such as WDFF come into being in response to their founders' perceptions of the social needs of their times. That these needs will change as societies change is equally evident. To remain relevant to the needs of the changing society organisational goals and policies must therefore always be subject to constant review: the alternative is to risk obsolescence and eventual decline and decay.

Are the goals and policies of WDFF **right** to meet the needs of our members and those whom we serve today? What major changes in our communities can be foreseen in the years that lie just ahead? Should we be planning to redirect some of our efforts and resources to meet new and emerging needs? If so, what do we need to do?

These questions were put to James Duncan and me during a pleasantly informal meeting with a group of your Councillors in Wellington a few weeks ago. (Professor Duncan is the former Chairman of New Zealand's Commission for the Future and founder-Chairman of the New Zealand Futures Trust, whose work in leading research and public discussion on options for the future of New Zealand is condensed into a book of that title recently published by ANZ Book Company of Takapuna, Auckland. My experience in the fields of organisational planning and development has been largely acquired in the business section and in Government.)

To such questions, futurists tend to reply, paradoxically enough, that there is no such thing as 'the future' only futures. Which of the possibilities will be realised depends not a little on the choices we make — which in turn depend on our values — and also on our taking an active, rather than a passive role. The paradox is that under conditions of uncertainty one has to make choices, and then endeavour to make things happen, rather than leave them alone in the hope that all will turn out for the best. Farmers facing the decline of traditional markets and the need to diversify are only too conscious of this!

Having said this, it was natural that our discussion should turn to some of the changes that will increasingly impact on our rural communities as this century draws to its close. Among these, the research of James Duncan and others indicates that we can foresee an economy marked by continuing recession or near-recession well into the '90s at least; rising transport costs (dramatically so in the '90s) and demographic changes toward our aging population and an increased proportion of non-Europeans (one in four of those under the age of 15 in the next 30 years). Greater diversification of farm products and more intensive land use will be a feature, with some shifts in the pattern of 'urban drift.'

On the positive side, new communications technology will include the wider use of tele-conferencing (attending meetings without leaving home) and instant access to national or international data-bank or medical, legal, educational and other professional or technical advisory services. Coupled with the use of home or personal com-

putors many services now requiring travel to town will also be available at home, including medical services such as kidney dialysis, cancer chemotherapy and intravenous feeding. Computer-based home businesses and job responsibilities conducted from home (the 'electronic cottage') will become more commonplace as we enter the 21st century, now only 15 years away.

The second phase of our discussion with your Councillors dealt with the ways in which such patterns of social change are intergrated into business plans and the planning of major social agencies. James Duncan outlines the technique of 'cross-impact analysis' which examines the implications of alternative likely scenarios as a basis for policy formulation and I was able to supplement this with examples of other complimentary approaches. Essentially, however, we suggested that forward planning always seeks out answers to four major questions, irrespective of the type of organisation involved;

What business are we really in?

Where are we now?

Where do we want to go?

What will be have to do to get there?

The first of these questions is critical. My favourite example is the Hollywood Film Industry, which for 50 years defined its business as 'making and showing films for cinema audiences' only to fall from its former heights with the advent of Tv. Had it re-defined its business as 'providing entertainment through the medium of film' it would have been more alert to the implications of the new technology and perhaps reacted in time.

The periodic re-examination of aims and purposes in the light of changing circumstances is fundamental to sound organisational planning.

The second question, in corporate planning terms, entails a really searching analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation (internal audit) and of the threats (for example, declining membership) and opportunities (needs for new services, more effective means of delivery of services, etc) in the outside world — environmental audit!

The third question, involves the examination of alternative scenarios, selection of the most likely scenario over an agreed time span (say, 20 years on) and the determination and strategies and action places. The fourth question is, of course, a reminder that plans are really only pieces of paper until people translate them into action.

Initiating a planning cycle in these times is not easy, but the rewards can be great, bringing fresh life and vigour to the organisation even as the process gets underway. Policies that once seemed intractable are often diminished by their exposure and new instructives, perhaps stifled by the pressures of day by day work have a chance to be tested and tried. (Recent surveys of business firms here and elsewhere show that those with futuristic long-term planning procedures are more energetic and motivated and consistently perform better than those which rely more on ad hoc measures of a reactive rather than proactive kind.)

Social organisations are not usually pressured by marked realities as business firms are, but this may be one reason why so many seem to lose momentum in mid-life and enter a period of long-term decline. From another perspective, it may only be when the struggles of infancy and adolescence are past that a mature organisation can allocate time and effort to the next, crucial, developmental task of formulating well conceived plans for its future. And in these rapidly changing times, it seems at least well to remember that 'the faster you go, the further you have to look ahead.'

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Printing error

Page 36, March issue the word was hearsay not heresy. Thank you to those members who wrote to me.

Ministry of Women's Affairs

A national application was made to the End of the Decade Fund for financial support for a female student in need of assistance to do a Bachelor of Commercial Agriculture Degree. The Ministry received many applications and the WDF application was not among the lucky ones chosen.

Lottery Board Assistance

Welfare Services Distribution Committee, Dept of Social Welfare, called for applications for financial assistance from 'Home Help Support Services.' Headquarters made an application for further funding for housekeeping seminars. We all have our fingers crossed and will let you know if successful.

Dominion Officer's Travel Costs

I receive enquiries from time to time on the procedure to follow when a provincial or branch has invited a Dominion Officer to attend a function.

It is established practice that a contribution be made to the Officer's travel costs. It is over to you to decide how much you can afford. Ask the officer concerned for the pink slip out of her travel voucher book. Write a cheque for the full amount or part thereof and return it with the pink voucher direct to headquarters.

If it is a Provincial visit by the President then the Provincial Secretary takes responsibility for the pink form and for despatching the money to headquarters. The Provincial Secretary decides how much each branch needs to contribute.

Disaster Fund

There is a national fund that branches and provincials contribute to each year. This is allocated at the discretion of Dominion Council as needs arise. This year its been used for Fiji cyclone, Operation Hope, Thames/Te Aroha Floods.

In addition if branches or provincials send individual cheques to headquarters tagged for a specific purpose then we merely act as a clearing house and forward the money immediately according to how it is tagged.

Tapa Cloth

I am most pleased to have a very attractive cloth on the wall of my office which was gifted to WDF by the Fijian delegates at the ACWW Area Conference in Christchurch.

Project Rejuvenation

This edition carries an article by Mrs McInnes and Mr Joe Williams on the project — I am looking forward to working with the Planning Committee and the smaller Task Force. I hope it is the beginning of a stronger organisation for members.

Dominion Secretary

It has been decided that the title appropriate for 1925 is not suitable for the 80s. The position has grown and consequently it is long past the time the name needed to be up-graded. I guess it will take everyone time to get used to Executive Officer.

Violence Crime and you

The Community is responsible for itself. Since 1930 remits and numerous letters are sent in every year regarding violence, increasing crime and harsher penalties. MPs say the provisions are there in law but not being imposed. Judges state sentences are given on evidence presented and it will not work any other way. With the trend to assume responsibility for their own security. This can be done in two ways —

1. Neighbourhood Watch groups — Include all people in your district such as casual residents and tenants. Encourage everyone to be aware of any unusual activity, such as strange cars in unusual places, cattletrucks arriving during the night, stock movements (particularly on roads) contrary to normal farming practice and most important don't let anyone feel embarrassed and "nosey" when they ring the owner. Such groups are a definite deterrent and should be encouraged.

2. Keep a record — If your branch wants to take the initiative appoint a person who is prepared to take the responsibility of keeping a register of all incidences. As police resources are being stretched often the investigations on complaints are very limited and prosecutions rare. There is a feeling it is a waste of time reporting thefts and incidents but if every incident is recorded an overall picture emerges which assists in the detection of the culprits.

Points to note: Time — Date — Details of complaint — Police notified — Police action if any — Witnesses — Local observations.

A dossier of complaints over a period of time in your area will give substantial factual evidence to support staffing in your locality. If we had sufficient data an

overview of rural New Zealand would show if the country is being serviced adequately.

Review of Children and Young Persons Legislation

Submissions have been forwarded to the Department of Social Welfare on this discussion paper. It was helpful to have your views and we appreciate the effort of a number of legislation committees.

Some of the points included are as follows:

1. The paper states that "most juvenile crime is petty property crime". We believe that is not reality and children and young persons are involved in a wide variety of crimes such as car conversion, breaking and entry, drugs, assault, shoplifting, arson and vandalism.

2. It is not practical or desirable for a person of the same race to be present every time a child is uplifted and would not enhance a happy multicultural society. Police and Social workers should as part of training study culture and customs of other races with emphasis on the Maori and Polynesians.

3. It is intended that Medical practitioners, police and social workers be required to report ill treatment and neglect. Teachers who are in daily contact with children and District and Community nurses are likely to detect ill treatment and neglect before Police, Doctors and Social Workers are aware of the problem and it should be mandatory that they too are required to report.

4. Child Protection Teams are composed of a barrister or solicitor of the High Court, a doctor, commission Police officer and up to three other persons representing race or specific areas. The formation of such teams is ideal but not realistic. People of such calibre would not be able to get together within days of an incidence for a case conference as is desirable and how would the rural community be serviced.

Nuclear Issue

Since 1956 Wdff has declared itself to be against the poliferation of and experimentation on nuclear weapons. This, then is our current stated policy.

For members information remits were passed as follows:—

1956 Peaceful use of Nuclear Energy. That this Conference, recognising that the world is beyond the threshold of a new era — the atomic age — expresses the hope that thermo-nuclear weapons

for destruction purposes may be for ever held in check, and urges the people of the world through their Governments to concentrate their research, their resources, their talents and treasure on the development and peaceful use of atomic and thermo nuclear energy for the universal good of mankind.

1958 We supported the United Nations disarmament plan.

1964 We supported the banning of Nuclear bombs in the Pacific.

1966 Asked the women of France to help prevent nuclear tests in the Pacific.

1976 Supported the investigation of other forms of natural energy as an alternative to nuclear power.

In the 1980s we must also be aware of the value of nuclear technology in modern medicine.

Margaret Millard Convener
Jeanette Tarbotton
Aisa Lovett
Peg Howard

RURAL SAFETY REPORT

RICE not as in food but as in first aid. Soft tissue injuries are by far the most common and the most neglected — these are sprains, strains, bruises which damage muscles, tendons, joint capsules and ligaments.

Signs and symptoms are pain, tenderness, swelling, bleeding into tissues (sometime visible as bruising) and restriction of movement or loss of function. Uncontrolled bleeding into tissues will lead to swelling and more pain which will increase the disability of the injured part. Immediate attention and first aid will minimise the damage.

Rest prevents further damage and reduces blood and fluid flow.

Ice crushed and wrapped in a towel moulded over the damaged area reduces the blood and fluid flow, also reduces pain and spasms. A pack of frozen peas

is an ideal substitute for ice. If you have a sensitive skin smear with oil before applying the ice pack. Remove pack after 20 minutes. It can be reapplied during the first 24 hours every four or five hours.

Compression reduces bleeding and swelling. Bandage firmly with a crepe bandage over the ice pack while it is in use and over the injury for at least 24 hours or longer if the swelling persists.

Elevation reverses the effect of gravity reducing swelling and bleeding.

If you hear or feel a tearing sensation apply the RICE treatment but arrange to see a doctor as soon as possible. After the first day exercise gently and slowly being careful not to aggravate the injury. Apply ice after exercise. It works extremely well and even the most reluctant patient will be impressed with the speed mobility returns.

Tractors and Safety Frames

Following a prosecution at Otaki where a 10-year-old was killed on a tractor a petition has been mounted and the YFC through their conference have passed remits ensuring all tractors without exception have safety frames and seat belts be introduced. Without too much thought it sounds ideal however discussions with the Assistant Chief Inspector of Factories from the Department of Labour and a representative of the Tractor and Machinery Association revealed a multitude of problems.

All frames approved for use in New Zealand are designed to collapse in a certain way. Any sleeves added (to strengthen in case of damage) or holes drilled changes the points of stress making the frame not only unacceptable but

unsafe. The average life of a New Zealand tractor is 17½ years compared with 12 in the United Kingdom and less than the USA so requirement for weathering and stress are different to other parts of the world. It is become compulsory to have a frame it would not be possible to develop and test suitable frames for all the models in the country and it would be totally uneconomic if there were only a small number of a model. Although a suitable collapsible frame is available it has not sold well and you cannot imagine it would be erected every time.

Remember if your tractor has rolled your investment has served you well — buy another frame, do not attempt to straighten or repair the old one.

Margaret Millard

EDUCATION REPORT MARCH 1985

Replies to Remits from Conference 1984

1. Re payment of allowance to people supervising children enrolled as fulltime pupils of Correspondence School.
Mr Russell Marshall, Minister of Education, has replied saying it is his intention, within the next three years, to introduce such payment. The amount paid may be quite small initially, but as he sees it, the important thing is to establish the principle.
Note: Members if this payment is to be definitely introduced, please keep this subject in mind.
2. Concerning the period of notice required to be given by teachers prior to taking up a transfer on promotion.
Mr Marshall says that normally, teachers transfer at the beginning of a school term. However, in exceptional circumstances a teacher may give a minimum of one month's notice of intention to transfer to another position. Mr Marshall said his department would not support sudden changes of staff, and that such a matter should be taken up with the local Education Board.

Welford Farm Training Institute

Mention was made in the November Education Report (March "Countrywoman") of the problems facing this training farm and the possibility of closure. It is unfortunate that because of the Government's refusal to pay the salaries of staff who were training officers and supervisors, that plans for new enterprises and renewal of equipment has been put aside indefinitely.

But the farm is keeping up its training programme and is to introduce new teaching methods. This system is known as the mastery learning experience, and ensures each pupil actually masters a topic before another subject is introduced. It is a move away from the "chalk and talk" regime; a move away from the belief that a topic could be covered in a set number of lectures and everyone would fully understand it. John Third, Principal of Telford, says there are some exciting changes coming up in agricultural education and although they won't happen overnight, in the long term they will prove the worth of institutions such as Telford.

Pregnancy and Child Birth

Is the name of a new course written by the Correspondence School in conjunction with the Federation of NZ Parents Centres. People who would find this course of interest would be those who have no transport, live too far from antenatal clinics, want a refresher course for a second or later pregnancy, prepare for a first pregnancy, or for those considering adopting or fostering. Information about this course can be obtained from the Registrar, Correspondence School, Private Bag, Wellington.

Peace Studies

As promoted by the Minister of Education.

Surely the concept of peaceful co-existence with our neighbours, locally and internationally, should be an on-going part of all education and not a separate subject. If your thoughts differ, please let us know.

Commission of Inquiry

Into Forms 5 to 7, Examinations and Assessment

Because submissions were due by May 1 and little correspondence had been received from members, Dominion Council have forwarded their recommendations.

Okaihau have expressed the concerns of small rural colleges, which they feel will be disadvantaged by being unable to offer the wider range of courses needed once the constraints of the UE syllabus are removed.

Jeanette McIntyre — Convener
Isla McRae
Merle Wyllie

FIGHT GOBBLEDEGOOK!

Consumers Institute will give you free stickers to help campaign for plain English.

As this topic has been the subject of Conference remits we hope that members will write to the Institute, Private Bag, Wellington to obtain stickers.

Place them on letters, documents, media articles, where the meaning is obscure, especially if the language is too technical, and then return the document to the writer of the article.

A quantity of stickers have been distributed to branches however there were not enough for every branch to receive some.

Commission of Enquiry into Examinations and Assessment Forms 5 — 7

A submission prepared by the Education Committee was forwarded to the Committee of Inquiry Dept of Education during March.

Set out below is a precis of the submission:

Form 5 — School Certificate should be retained in the 5th form. Scaling to be abolished.

Form 6 — Now that UE is to be abolished replacing it with 6th form Certificate gives employers better insight into students' capabilities and attitudes.

Form 7 — Scholarship and Bursary during this year should be retained, with marks graded to

quality students for: Entrance to University

Monetary grants — bursary and scholarship

Bursary fees should be up-graded.

General comments — support for community change in attitudes to that academic achievements are recognised to the same degree as sporting achievements. Support for work skills programmes in senior years, internal assessment of art, clothing and other manual subjects.

Rural Colleges — concern that these will be disadvantaged as they do not have the number of pupils necessary to provide flexibility in courses.

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT REPORT — MARCH 1985

Congratulations Nelson in your step forward in involving your schools at intermediate age of cleaning the Poormans Stream for Conservation Week. This being heavily overgrown with Old Man's Beard, Ivy and weeds, the bank looked very untidy and messy. The School Council decided this, and took the idea back to class and called for volunteers for cleaning and planting. We would like to hear of more schools involving their children on conservation and environment and being taught to enjoy more pleasure of outdoor life and the care of our plant material.

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries are concerned at the debris which does not bio-degrade, that is being lost or thrown overboard at sea, and is rapidly becoming a hazard to marine life. Turtles and whales washed up on New Zealand beaches have been found to have swallowed polythene bags. Whales and seals become entangled in lost or discarded fishing gear causing death. Friendly scientists from countries around the Pacific are meeting to review the marine debris problem.

"Action on Smoking and Health" is highlighted with the decision of the Common-

wealth Games organisers not to allow tobacco to be associated with the 1990 games. A similar decision has been made for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Canada. It is hoped this will be a trend for keeping tobacco out of major sporting events. We congratulate the Dunedin restaurants which have set aside a smoke free dining area. Keep our air clean.

In 1972 an expert sub-committee of the Agricultural Chemicals Board, recommended that aerial application of 245T be discouraged, but if such treatments are deemed to be essential, they be not made within one mile of a homestead or urban area; owing to the serious health hazard in both adults and children. So let us educate our users of this and eliminate drift.

Don't give your ear drums a beating. Protect your hearing properly. Repeated loud noise destroys the delicate cells permanently. The louder the noise the higher the grade of hearing protection required. In 1983 Department of Health launched its first comprehensive programme to prevent noise induced hearing loss in industry. An estimated 200,000 New Zealanders are partially deaf, 40,000 of whose hearing loss is probably due to excessive noise at work or spare time activities. In 1984 it is the turn of people at home, or those who like noisy recreation. The Department is concentrating its "Deafness Prevention" campaign on two groups:

- a) Retailers of noisy equipment, chain saws, motor mowers, power tools etc.
- b) People who own or rent noisy equipment.

So let us protect our hearing and that of others.

Clematis Vitalba.

Old Mans Beard is now flowering and setting its seed in most areas. So let us all set out to destroy this noxious weed.

June 5 is Arbor Day

Do you plant another tree every time one is cut down on your farm? Forestry grants, as well as being available for the planting of exotics, are now also available for planting native trees; as long as they will eventually be milled. This would be a good heritage for your grandchildren or great grandchildren.

Trees drain better than pipes

For over 100 years it has been customary to remove swamp forest in order to expose low lying land for artificial drainage and agricultural development. A recent study has shown that an undrained kahikatea bush reserve near Hamilton has a much lower ground water table than surrounding intensively grazed drained pasture — a good argument for retaining blocks of native forest on your farmland.

Gladys Kerrisk — Convener
Merle Wyllie
Mary Taylor



MEDICAL SERVICES REPORT MARCH 1985

Congratulations

The Medical Services Committee would like to congratulate Mrs Amy Jones on her selection as a member of the Standing Committee for Primary Health Care, recently appointed by the Board of Health. Also to Mrs J. Moore for her winning entry in the Rowley Brooch Competition, (West Otago Provincial), her subject "Human Fertilisation Technology". Members will have had the opportunity to read this in the March Countrywoman.

Medical Questionnaire

The collation of the Survey forwarded to Otago University was as follows:

Summary of Doctor/Patient Relationships — Doctors should be caring, tactful and understanding — should treat patients as people and not numbers, be good listeners and create a good atmosphere between doctor and patients, have a kindly approach and the ability to put the patient at ease.

Practice and Management Techniques — Rushed consultations and patient numbers create hurried surgery visits. It is sometimes easier to hand out pills than spend time with patients. Some doctors have too many patients and possibly some type of zoning is required. Prompt and full reports on laboratory information are necessary to allay fears, ie medics themselves know that no news is good news, but a worried patient would prefer confirmation of results. Good communication and the need to treat patients as intelligent people is most important, particularly when dealing with the elderly. Some areas were alarmed at the practice of the doctors nurse receptionist, or practice nurse, taking the doctors place in

diagnosis, thus endangering the patient's privacy; and in other cases the arrogance of some of the nurses and their protection of the doctors upset patients and was demoralising.

Training — Medical personnel should be trained to recognise and treat depression and neurosis as a true illness — an open wound can be seen to be healing, but a mind sick with depression needs prompt assistance. Doctors should be adequately trained to advise their patients on family stability, marital sexual problems, and contraception for all ages. In their initial medical training limited instruction needs to be given in psychology, nutrition, diet, an understanding of womens' problems such as menstrual menopausal, pre-menstrual tension, breast feeding and breast examination. Updated books, diagrams and manuals should be available for doctor-patient discussion in the surgeries — these amenities are often lacking or completely missing in many rural areas.

Travel and Costs — Many rural people have great distances to travel to visit doctors and costs can be high. The possibility of doctor "visiting days" into rural areas should have further investigation, although our questionnaire did show this happening in a few instances. Although the feasibility of this practice could not pertain to all rural districts it could be very effective in the isolated areas, thus fostering a feeling of contact and security. Travelling charges for doctors visiting rural areas appear to range from nil to 60 cents per mile. Some doctors give "cut" charges for superannuitants and children, and in a few "special areas" there are no charges. Range of prices for consultations was very varied. Visits to surgery or

medical centre ranged from \$10-\$15 with night visits and home visits \$15 upwards. There were complaints that some doctors demand payment in advance before making home visits.

Empathy — Was considered most necessary, but if that cannot be achieved, an understanding listening ear, and supportive attitude is most important.

Counselling Skills Are essential, or if not access to skilled counsellors is a matter of paramount importance.

Overall Impressions from the Survey

— The prevalence of **Respiratory** problems is noticeable throughout the country. **Hydatids** is not showing as a national problem, although there are still "pockets" of concern in some areas. **Leptospirosis**, Women's Division Federated Farmers present project is raising further finance for an on-going research to find a vaccine for pigs — our survey figure of 103 infected areas is quite alarming. **Cot Death Research** also creates great interest for our Health Committee and all members, and here again the figures showed alarming proportions in many areas. **Alcohol and Drug Abuse** is both rural and urban.

Suggestions

- 1) Mobile clinics could prove beneficial in many rural areas.
- 2) Co-ordination of Health professionals should be encouraged, ie District Nurses, Public Health Nurses, Principal Nurses of Cottage Hospitals and Geriatric Hospitals, Physiotherapists etc, meeting to discuss local health related problems.
- 3) Government or the Profession should organise a pool of relieving locums, who could be called upon to take over practices, to permit rural doctors to go on refresher courses or leave. The locum's pay to be a cost on the country, ie the teacher does not have to pay the person who relieves him while attending a course.
- 4) The need to remind Government and those working in the field of medicine, of the lack of good medical care in many rural areas, and until such time as rural, as well as urban families are equal in health care, and have availability to the same first class basic medical amenities, we must strive to let the needs of all be known to the appropriate authorities.

District Related Health Problems

Taranaki, Waipa, Nelson and Southland appear to have greater **asthmatical** problems than other areas. **Leptospirosis** is prevalent in a number of North Island districts, with growing numbers in the South Island. **Emphysema** shows few Provincials without cases.

Brucellosis is more prevalent in the North Island than the South, while **Hydatids** still appears a concern to sheep farmers. **Selenium Deficiency** shows up in Rotorua, and parts of Nelson and Marlborough. No areas seem to have escaped Arthritis, Sinus, Obesity and Rheumatism and strangely enough Diabetes was only mentioned by ten branches.

Cot Deaths — It was difficult to gauge the severity because branches in close proximity may have quoted the same cases; the highest rate of Cot Deaths, according to the questionnaire, were in the following Provincials: Manawatu, South Taranaki, Rangitikei-Oroua, Otago and South Otago.

We would like to thank members who have corresponded and forwarded information this quarter, but as we promised you the results of the Medical Questionnaire we regret that space will not allow us to use your material.

Mary Taylor — Convener
Barbara Bagley
Gladys Kerrisk

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Kia ora kotou katoa.

Since the last "Countrywoman" the big success has been the South Pacific Area Conference of Associated Countrywomen of the World at Christchurch in February. It is a bit awkward to say that the Area Vice-President, our Miss Jean Smith and her team of WDFW and CWI are to be most heartily congratulated because some of us were on the edge of that team, nevertheless it was undoubtedly a most successful and happy conference, due in great part to the hard preliminary work that had been put in. For me the real highlight came after the Conference when a delegate from Papua New Guinea who had stayed over for home hospitality said at the Canterbury Inter-provincial Conference "... I learned many things, and one of those things is that in New Zealand not just at the Conference, but in the shops as well, I am not just a poor brown woman, I am somebody, I am me." I think we can feel proud of this, and shows to me that we are the right people to help the women of the Islands because we have acceptable attitudes. Through ACWW we are not superiors giving aid, we are friendly neighbours giving a helping hand, and we were certainly all friends together, closer than some sisters, at the Christchurch Conference.

Miss Jean Smith and Mrs Val Fisher, World Vice-President, (who was deputising for Dr Ellen McLean, World President briefly hospitalised) set the tone of warm and relaxed friendship. You would have all been very proud of the wholehearted support given by all our members in so many ways.

To those of you who have been wondering what happened to the sewing kits we have saved enough of the small-

er ones to give one to each of the delegates from the Islands, and each delegation took home a parcel of kits besides this, so the last consignments went with the leaders who know how to place them to the best advantage. The Fijian delegation, assured us that the members of Nai Soqosoqo Vakamarama would be happy to make up peggy squares into blankets to keep people warm who suffered in the cyclones, so we sent the last of our stocks straight away.

We have received the information sent out by United Nations Association of NZ including the report on their Conference, and the plans for the 1985 Conference in June. This will follow the recommendations made by the Secretary-General of the UN during his visit to this country. The conference theme will be peace, and discussions will be on disarmament, development and interdependence, and we are invited to send two delegates. The next step will be a Symposium in October to mark United Nations Day, and proclaim International Year of Peace. The association is looking to form a lobby group of Aid Agencies which will meet with Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

United Nations Association and ACWW London both report on the next UN World Conference of Women in Nairobi from 15 — 26 July 1986, and before that, from 8 — 17 July, non-government organisations will be meeting in "Forum '85" also in Nairobi and ACWW are involved.

Thank you for stamps and tea coupons received, and more are required. Mrs Merle Wright had prepared a wonderful display and sales table of stamps for Christchurch, but we need a steady supply, and Mrs Noel Wells is doing great work in getting them prepared and sold.

I am having great problems getting the baby van organised. Just as soon as I can get an acceptable arrangement for collecting, despatch, and receipt and distribution arrangements all in line and secure, you will be informed.

We have received a tentative itinerary for a forty-two day tour taking in the ACWW Triennial Conference at Killarney in Eire from May 20 to 27 1986, leaving on May 4. It is very difficult to know what special events are occurring in Britain at that time, because the British Travel and Holiday people do not publish their catalogue of events until the December 85 issue of "In Britain Now". However, Chelsea Flower Show is normally the first week in May so to take in that, it would be necessary to leave a week earlier.

Women's Division is still trying to ensure that the money for "Water for Women" can be allocated to the South Pacific Area, so that we may claim a subsidy from our Government and thus be able to give even more help.

There are still a number of Provincial

International Officers who have not sent me their Annual Reports and I need these now, in order to present a full picture of our international work for the year at Conference in June. Please tell me what you have been doing if you have not already done so.

I do hope that all Provincials are working toward having a dragon, not more than twelve inches long, any media whatsoever, either Chinese, New Zealand, Welsh, English or whatever, to display at Conference in competition with all other dragons for ACWW funds.

Members seriously thinking of trying to be one of the WD delegation to ACWW in Ireland in 1986 should let headquarters know as soon as the ambition occurs to them, and if you would be interested in the tour, let us know so we can send you particulars as soon as the itinerary is more settled.

keep up the good work, it is very worthwhile.

Ginny Talbot

"HONDA" REPORT

You will recall from the last quarterly report the very pleasing remarks made by the health inspector regarding "Honda", and you will be equally pleased to hear he has paid a return visit, to what he calls "the best example of a guest house in Wellington", for the purpose of taking colour slides of some of the rooms and these he intends using as illustrations at a lecture he is giving at a conference. Isn't that really something?

The garden has recently been given a thorough going over and a horticulture graduate employed to clean and replant the rockery with suitable low-growing shrubs which will, in time, cover the whole area with a variety of greenery.

The manageress, Mrs O'Brien, has expressed her appreciation of the changes made in the terms of reference as well as a change of rooms for her private accommodation which now ensures her undisturbed nights. Best of all, Jackie said she and her husband would be prepared to make "Honda" their home for at least the next few years and this is good news indeed as she has certainly proved her abilities and genuine care for "Honda".

The bed occupancy rate for the period August 18 to December 3 1984 averaged 6½.

Approval has been granted for the proposed redecorating of rimu and kauri

rooms plus stair-well and upstairs passage, and work will commence as soon as possible so there will be some busy days ahead.

Permission has been granted for an increase in tariffs, as follows: Members \$10, Non-members \$18, Pre-schoolers \$5, 5-12 year olds half fees.

Arising from the meeting are a few suggestions for those branches, provincials and members considering gifts or donations to "Honda": Long tablecloths, in neutral shades, for the dining room, donations towards payments on Tv rental, which at present is costing \$37.50 per month and donations to the furnishing fund to assist with the purchase of new curtains for the kauri room once the painting and papering have been completed.

I have never found it easy to ask people to give, or to buy raffle tickets, but it is a fair measure of my love and admiration for "Honda" that it is no problem to put these suggestions before you particularly as caring members often ask what they can do for "Honda".

Joyce Morrah
Secretary.

TAHA MAORI

The Maori Land Court has been an important part of Maori life for more than 1000 years, but few people have known much about it and even fewer have had a clear idea of how it works and what it tries to achieve.

Today the Maori people are taking a more self reliant and searching interest in laws that affect them. They want to know how to use these laws and how to change them, something that cannot be done without a clear understanding of what has gone before.

A book has been written providing a comprehensive reference source for Maoris and other researchers wanting to know more about the interpretation and application of laws affecting Maori people.

This book is called "**Tai Whatī**" Judicial Decisions affecting Maoris and Maori land 1958-1983 and is available from Government Printing Offices.

M. Tarbotton
M. Wyllie

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR LEPTOSPIROSIS

Eastern Southland Farm Workers Association	\$50
Kaikoura Young Farmers Club	\$50
Rangitikei-Oroua Provincial WDF	\$1346
Te Puke Provincial	\$100
Kaipara Prov WDF	\$554
Southern Hawkes Bay	\$100
Westland Provincial WDF	\$68
Collingwood Young Farmers Club	\$100
Wanganui District Young Farmers Club & Branches	\$7866
Baines Branch WDF	\$95
Marsden Provincial	\$3196
Tryphena Branch	\$25
Awatere Valley	\$126
Rai Valley	\$63
Blenheim Branch	\$400
Molesworth Branch	\$300
Central Otago	\$562
Waikaretu Branch	\$80
Westland Provincial	\$189

Plus a number of donations under \$25 which makes a total of \$34,133 as at March 29.

MEMBERS' NOTICE BOARD

Sanson-Ohakea

Silver Jubilee

Saturday, June 8, 1985

Contact:

**A.E. Thompson,
Penny Road,
R.D. 9,
Palmerston North.**

Bonny Glen-South Makirikiri

50th Anniversary Luncheon
May 14th

Contact:

**Mrs D. Wright,
130 Pukepapa Rd,
Marton.**

Pelorus Sound Branch

50th Anniversary

August 17, 1985

Contact: (by July 26)

**Mrs K.M. Jones,
Pokokini P.B.,
Pelorus Sound,
Havelock.**

Wairakau Branch

40th Jubilee

October 7, 1985

Contact:

**Mrs N. Cowley,
R.D. 1,
Te Aroha.**

Oakura Branch (WDFP's first branch)

60th Anniversary

September 11

at 1pm

Oakura Hall

Contact:

**Mrs R.J. Bishop,
No. 4 RD,
New Plymouth.**

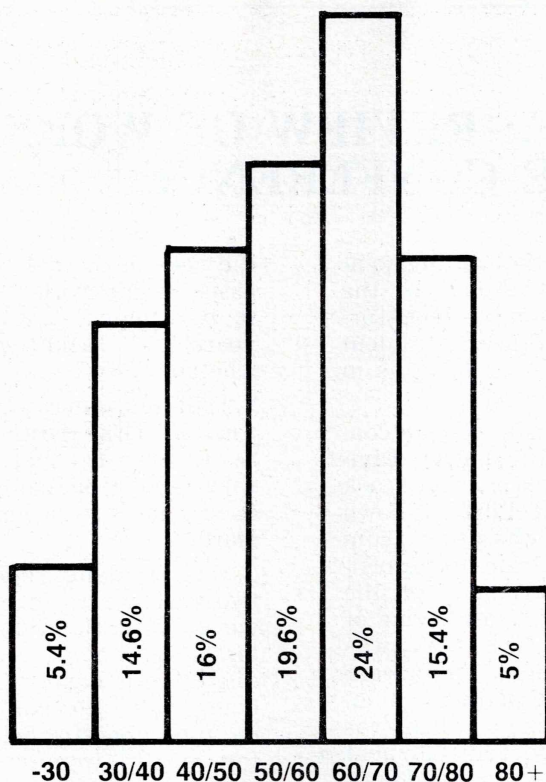
Nota Bene

Because this is a special issue in which we have attempted to look back over 60 years of WDFP history and glimpse the future, it has not been possible to include all reports and contributions.

Nevertheless they are all appreciated and will be included in later issues where possible.

Next issue will concentrate on Conference, therefore the reports, addresses and resolutions from Rotorua will have priority.

Margaret.



AGE IN YEARS OF MEMBERS

W.D.F.F.

ANALYSIS OF MEMBERSHIP AGE DISTRIBUTION IN 1984

1949:

W.D.F.F.: REVIEW OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A resume of the work done at the annual conference of the Women's Division has been furnished by Mrs Fraser, president of the Weston branch, to us in the following terms:—

The twenty-fourth annual conference of the Women's Division of Federated Farmers took place in the Wellington Town Hall concert chamber from July 12 to 14. Prior to the official opening ceremony on the evening of July 12 a meeting of the Dominion Executive was held at which eight remits were considered. One of these of interest to branches, which was carried, was the reinstatement of the annual levy to headquarters of 2s per member.

The opening ceremony in a hall packed to capacity was performed by that much loved benefactor to the W.D.F.F. Dr Agnes Bennett, who received an ovation on rising to speak.

The Dominion president, Mrs J.R. Haldane, who had been re-elected unopposed, then read her report on the year's work. She referred to the housekeeping scheme as "the kernel of the Division work," and spoke of the difficulty of securing sufficient housekeepers to keep the scheme in full operation. It is intended to make application to the immigration authorities to bring out five carefully chosen English women between

the ages of 30 and 40 years, to assist in this work — applicants to be under contract for two years at a weekly wage of £4, whether fully employed or not.

Tributes were paid to Mrs Smith, the Housekeeping Secretary, for her excellent work under difficult circumstances, and to the headquarters staff.

Mrs Haldane reported that two rest homes in each island were fully functioning, Scotland, the most recently acquired of these rest homes, being now fully paid for. Honda, the delightful holiday home for country women, their husbands and families, which was the gift of Dr Agnes Bennett, and was capable of accommodating eight persons at a time is self-supporting.

Membership for the year had increased and the number is now over 25,000. The philanthropic work of the organisation has been continued through the generous support from branches to the Community Chest, which the Division relies on to help this work grow. The Women's Division is interested in education, health and justice — in all things in fact for the welfare of women and children. In expressing thanks for her re-election Mrs Haldane pledged herself to do her best to further the work of the Division.

A presentation was then made to the past Dominion president, Mrs Elliott, of a beautiful writing desk and full length standing mirror, in appreciation of her splendid work, and the love and esteem in which she is held throughout the Division. Mrs Elliott expressed her thanks in a most moving reply, after which the evening concluded with a mannequin display — "Wool the Versatile" — sponsored by the Wool Board. London and Paris designs modelled in wonderful woollen materials, were exhibited by perfectly trained mannequins. There were stripes and checks and floral designs; beautiful new colour tones and delicate pastel shades, in materials as soft and fine as silk, the crowning model of the display being an exquisite wedding gown in finest wool lace, with dainty bridesmaids' frocks in a soft blue woollen material with silver scrolls — a truly fitting climax to a memorable display.

At 9.30 next morning conference began in earnest, reports being received from the Dominion treasurer, who termed the past year one of outstanding achievement, the Housekeeping Committee and the rest homes. It is impossible to give details in this brief summary, but the reports proved that the work in these sections is progressing splendidly and fulfilling the aims of the organisation. Reports of educational rallies and cultural work were given by various provincials, providing evidence that these spheres are

not being neglected. Interesting and instructive addresses were given by Dr Agnes Bennett in connection with remits on capital punishment, by Dr Butchers, of the Correspondence School on education, Mr John Milner of the Overseas League on child migration, and Sir Howard Kippenberger on compulsory military training, the last-named being greeted with cheers and musical honours. Many remits were carried on these and other matters of importance to countrywomen and children. The Dominion president, Mrs Haldane, is to represent the Women's Division at the Associated Countrywomen's Conference at Copenhagen in 1950. A recording was made of the Women's Division song for use in broadcasts from national stations. Visits were arranged to local industries, but with sessions from 9.30am to late evening each day delegates had little leisure for sight-seeing while conference lasted.

However, even conference has its lighter side, and there were several interludes of sometimes unconscious humour, while the whole atmosphere was one of friendly co-operation. The following was overheard by a member on a Wellington street. Two men just ahead of her were talking — said one, "Who are all these women about wearing those coloured discs?" "Oh!" replied the other, "Don't you know? They're those displaced persons!" Well — perhaps he was right!

A farm worker's wife's viewpoint

(Reprinted with kind permission from a paper by Cheryl Thompson, wife of Waimak/Kowhai chairman, presented to a seminar on the problems and prospects for women on farms).

I consider myself fortunate to have spent most of my life involved with the country, first as a farmer's daughter and then as a teacher at a country school. It was not until I became part of a farm worker's family, my present situation, that I really got an insight into some of the unique difficulties faced by this important sector of our community. Although today I am speaking as a farm worker's wife, similar frustrations are faced by many rural workers and their families. Of course the term "farm worker" is a very general label applied to anyone employed on any type of farm, so it is impossible in the limited time available, to try to cover all aspects and problems.

No matter what the farm type, the majority of farmers today will readily agree that farming has become a far more technically sophisticated enterprise than in the past. All involved need to be capable of meeting this challenge. In days gone by the worker was, as the name farmhand suggests, extra manpower employed, usually temporarily, to help out with

such things as haymaking, milking, shearing and fruitpicking. Today, however, they are of necessity full-time skilled professionals and they must be looked on as assets, not liabilities, and treated as such.

The decision to employ a farm worker is not one to be taken lightly. It is not just a financial investment like buying a piece of machinery, to be used at will. This decision creates an almost unique situation as it is going to encroach upon the privacy of both families. Where else do the employer and his employee live as close neighbours, or even in the same house, work side by side, and perhaps share the same telephone line, mail box, community and friends? These disadvantages can be minimised with careful consideration and it is possible for lifelong friendships to be formed.

Before coming here today I spoke to a number of farm workers wives, from various areas, and found three problems predominant, these were: loneliness, feelings of social inferiority, and vulnerability. As far as

loneliness is concerned, it is evident from this morning's discussions that this is prevalent for many living in the country. It may, however, be accentuated for a farm worker's wife whose often relatively low wage limits communication with others through the expense of travelling, toll calls and, increasingly, even postage. She often does not feel as free as a farmer's wife does to be able to get out on the farm with her husband. She is, therefore, confined to what is frequently a small cottage on a back country road, with little or no surrounding garden or view, where even to set up a sewing machine may mean a major upheaval.

She must also be aware of the tremendous strain of having the responsibility for another's property can put on her husband.

Community functions and school events, which can play an important role in becoming a part of a country community, often cannot be attended as a family because of a farm employee working for a wage, and is not as easily able to manipulate his hours as the self-employed. This also cancels out a farm worker's wife being able to call on her husband as an occasional child-minder during the day. Conversations at country functions often centre around the progress, or lack of it, on the farm which makes it very difficult for the non-farm owner to contribute.

The second problem of social inferiority, I know, is going to

raise a few eyebrows, but it must be remembered that in many cases the farm worker's wife and family are trying to fit into an already formed social group. Many of its members may have known each other for years, are possibly related, and where success in life is unfortunately, often measured by acreage, production, or heritage. Somehow a concentrated effort by both parties has to be made to break down this barrier to communication. I know it is hard to form permanent ties with someone who belongs to what is frequently regarded as a shifting population, but perhaps a short friendship is more beneficial than no friendship at all.

This leads to the third main problem, vulnerability. The farm worker's family is completely at the employer's disposal. Within two weeks they may find themselves through no fault of their own, jobless, homeless and alone. Maybe the farm is sold without prior notice, or the farmer's children return home being unable to enter their desired professions, or the farmer falls on hard times, and finds he is unable to continue with the employment. Even a clash in personalities between any members of either family may see employment terminated. Unfortunately, all too often in desperation the worker accepts the first farm job which arises. This may not be the most suitable, but he sticks to it rather than presenting his family with another upheaval.

These problems I have touched on are complicated, and difficult to overcome. There are however, many concrete problems encountered in this employer/employee relationship which can be ironed out right from the beginning if both parties treat this as a business arrangement, just as their counterparts in the city would do. Both must familiarise themselves with the Farm Worker Act and the Award. This has been drawn up by representatives on both sides, and lays down the legal minimum for the terms and conditions of employment. It has been provided for the protection of both parties, and it is up to them to become aware of all it has to offer. In addition, many existing farm employer/employee relationships are helped by the two parties together drawing up a written agreement stating such things as wages, allowances, wife's duties, house conditions and promised improvements. It is essential that any such document include an annual review date.

Finally, the co-existence of two or more individuals will always be thwart with difficulties no matter who they are. Understanding and patience is needed from all parties to create a pleasant atmosphere in which all can enjoy fully the advantages that rural living has to offer.

To the Women's Division

Hail to thee! Oh, mother of the soil,
Thou whom neither time nor tide can spoil,
Seated on your throne of green fields and clover
Watching — lest there be a rover
Who, entering the flock, may scatter wide
The sheep, destroying all your pride.

The star held in your toil-worn hand
Be ever to us an emblem of the land;
The endless chain known so well,
Over us all casting a spell;
The bundle of sticks tied neat and tight,
May these be beacons to guide us aright.

Watch on, dear mother, as in the silver years,
Through many trials and many tears,
Ever on to the golden gates,
Helping, lifting, trampling all hates.
Hold the service banner straight and high,
As the future years come rolling by.

**From "And So We Grew"
WDFP publication for its Silver Jubilee 1950.**

TANGI

A Maori Custom and Festival for the Dead

by Margaret A. Wright

The Maori people are proud and happy, full of grace and intelligence. They came to New Zealand fearlessly, crossing the ocean in their vast carved canoes, singing as they came and bringing with them their colourful customs from the mists of their ancestral home, Hawaiki, whose identity and location is now lost in antiquity.

Legend tells that New Zealand was fished out of the sea by Maui, the youngest of five brothers. Maui left the fish in charge of his brothers while he returned to Hawaiki to fetch priests to divide the great fish with proper ritual. When he returned the brothers had divided the catch without proper attention to the ceremonial custom and the writhing and squirming of the monster formed the mountains and valleys of New Zealand's lush landscape.

In this new home, Aotearoa, many of the customs of Hawaiki became blurred and finally lost. Some are preserved in legends, for the Maori people are great story-tellers; but only a few of the customs survive as actual practices in Maori today.

White New Zealanders too often knew too little of the customs of their brown brothers. I was no exception. My youth was spent in the capital city and although I had seen Maori people from time to time I had rarely spoken with them and

never seen them in their own environment. In those days very few Maoris lived in the city. They preferred to live on their tribal lands in houses they called "whares" and in a village they called a "pa" which clustered around the sacred ancestral, common ground of the marae.

It was not until I went to live amongst my Maori brethren and teach at the "pa" school that I began to understand the festivals and customs of the people with whom I shared my homeland.

The marae is the centre of Maori life, festivals and customs. It is the common meeting ground where all men are free to speak their minds by custom without fear. On the marae joys are expressed in song and dance and festivals; and sorrows are shared during the tangi — the great weeping. No Maori stands alone in joy or sorrow. A whole family gathers and together they bear the great burden of sadness and the load

grows lighter as they spread its weight on shoulders squared to carry it. We who are Europeans have forgotten how to share our sorrows. We hide away and are ashamed of our tears. We put on a brave front and are worse for it.

Let me tell you of the Maori custom which touched my heart and is still the most meaningful of all those which came from the mystic home in Hawaiki. The dead are sacred, tapu, and as soon as a loved one dies he is brought to the verandah of the meeting house to lie in the bosom of his family while they mourn. Loving hands tend him, loving tears are shed for him and loving relatives sit with him until the spirit soars away from the land of mortals to Te Reinga, the land of departed spirits. The coffin lies open on the verandah and the floor space around it is covered by beautifully woven mats. Every turn of flax in the weaving, every mark of the adze in the finely carved beams of the meeting house is dictated by custom. Each tells its own story. It is custom for the great family to sleep side by side in the meeting house during the three days of the tangi. As each family group arrives mats are spread and beautifully embroidered pillows laid down. A communal occasion is always a time of ceremony and even death is not without its show.

I came to the gates of the marae in fear. I had never seen a dead body. In my world the

dead are banished to a church or funeral parlour to await the service that preludes the graveyard. Children are kept from the solemnity of the funeral and the casket is securely closed. We rarely view our dead. Even from the gate I could see Maori children playing by the steps near the verandah of the dead. They played without fear, accepting death in their midst as an inevitable part of life. I waited at the gate: I waited wondering what the strange protocol would be. Pani, an old Maori woman with a moko (tattoo) on her chin and greying braids of long hair hanging over her shoulders, moved to my side and gently took my hand. "I will go with you," she said, "for it is our custom to welcome strangers and put them at ease". I looked gratefully into her soft brown eyes and read the message in their depths. She understood my trepidation and with her as a guide I need have no fear.

Quietly we waited. From the verandah the keening rose in a crescendo of sound. A mighty wailing filled the air and from its depths a challenge rang out. Pani answered and gripping my hand tighter moved me forward. Slowly, very slowly, we trod the path from the gate to the verandah steps keeping our heads reverently bowed. Finally we stood before the great carved meeting house engulfed by the noise of weeping. The coffin was open. The face of the loved one was fanned by the chief mourners. A dozen bereaved rela-

tives were seated around the body, their faces contorted with grief and their heads swathed by the green leaves of mourning. Photographs of he who was dead were propped up at the foot of the coffin. In death he was loved and tended as he had been in life. Pani pressed noses in the traditional hongis of greeting. I shook each hand extended because I was a Pakeha unpractised in the custom of hongis.

Our respects paid we left the verandah and washed our hands in the water of purification which would release us from the power of tapu which surrounded the dead one on the verandah. Unless we washed away the spirits we could become victims of "Maori sickness" — madness. We were then free to sit in the sun and wait for the funeral service to begin. From time to time one of the chief mourners left the verandah and, after bathing in the waters of purification, came to join us. Their faces so recently contorted beyond recognition had resumed their normal expressions and the voices that had been raised in loud lament became gently modulated. The purpose of the tangi was clear. Those most grief-stricken could express their grief without inhibition and having done that could regain normality without tension or restraint.

The final service was dominated by the haunting sweetness of the funeral hymn. The Maori heritage of song is never more poignantly sweet as when

voices combine in harmony to farewell a spirit departing. Finally, the service was over and the lid of the coffin screwed down. Stout arms lifted the casket for the final trek to the tapu burial ground on the high cliff above the pa. Spades and shovels were snatched up and the procession moved off. At the foot of the creek we divested ourselves of watches, combs and all the accoutrements we carried about on our persons. Nothing of that nature may be taken, even inadvertently, from the land of the living or "Maori sickness" would eventuate. The grave had to be dug while we waited. Only the presence of the dead body we carried could give us safe passage into the realms of the dead. Two holes soon gaped in the hillside — one to receive the body and the other for his personal effects. His bed, his clothes, his blanket, his watch and all the things that were closely associated with him were lowered into the second hole. All were tapu and none could remain. Like many Maori customs this one had sound commonsense as its basis. What better way to be rid of infection than burial? What better way to be purified than to wash?

When the rights of burial were over we truged down the hill, but somehow I felt that the hearts were lighter. I scanned the faces so lately distorted with weeping and I saw they were calm. The storm was spent. They were prepared for the feast — the festival transition which would return to the

world of everyday things. In the dining-hall of the marae we sat down together to break bread. I was seated at the top table with the chief mourners. As a guest I must be greatly honoured in the tradition of hospitality that is basic to Maori custom. It is custom too, to eat heartily to show appreciation of hospitality. We fell to and devoured the fare of festivity — kina (sea eggs), puha (milk thistle), kanga-wai (corn steeped in water), pork and mutton, all cooked in an umu (earth oven) and served on flax platters the Maoris call "kono".

At last we were replete. Belly laughs filled the air instead of wailing. Now only the final ceremony that purified the home remained. In it, water would be splashed in each room before the family returned to live there and the spirits would retreat.

Haere! Haere! Ki te po!

Haere Ki o tupuna!

Haere ki to iwi!

(Go, to the other world

Go to your ancestors!

Go to your tribe).

Kaore te aroha ngau kino i roto ra

Ki te waka i pakarau

Ki te hoa ka riro

(Alas the bitter pain which gnaws within

For the canoe which was wrecked

For the friend who has gone).

The friend is gone; the pain is bitter. By Maori custom the pain is shared and sharing makes it bearable. For this is the Maori way.

Valley Views

Ragwort

The sun shines with a burning heat upon my back. Although it is past mid-summer, there is still considerable intensity in those warm rays reaching down to tan my skin, even through my light clothing. My hair is plastered to my head by perspiration, and rivulets of sweat trickle down my face.

In my hand I carry a paint tin half full of hormone pills, for today's task is the searching out of ragwort plants. Over the years we have assiduously kept our weeds down by various means. By now we realise that we will never be completely without them, but at least the plants found in each paddock are very few. Each time the grass has been eaten off a paddock by the cows, we cover that area on foot, seeking out the ragwort and thistle plants and scattering a few pills over them. The plants thus treated soon die, but there are always some fresh ones springing up.

My immigrant husband was, at first, amazed by their persistence. He would walk across a paddock, confident that he had cleared it of ragwort. On finding yet another plant a few days after, he would stare at it unbelievably and then say to me with a rueful smile, "Isn't nature WONDERFUL?"

As I stroll home I feel very thankful that I do not have to cope with this weed on steep hills as many people do.

L.A. Loeffen

"In the big things of life we are one"

It started off as any other morning, the washing blowing gently in the breeze, the last batch of biscuits in the oven, when the phone rang, disturbing my tranquillity.

It was a **WD member**.

"There's been a bad accident outside our gate — will you come or shall I ring the District Nurse?"

"Ring her" (as I mentally surveyed my range of medical supplies, and anticipating perhaps the need of oxygen, Doctor, ambulance). "Yes, ring her".

Taking the biscuits from oven, and dashing to collect bandages, slings, sheets, towels, not knowing what to expect, I drove the mile further up the valley. There was the car, front wheels resting up on a low bank, a prostrate figure lying on the side of the road, the distraught weeping wife, pleading, "Help him please, he can't die".

My daughter-in-law (**also a WD member**), who had taken nursing experience, was kneeling by, and as I approached, slowly shook her head. **Piece by piece the story unfolded:—**

My husband, in truck, with son following on motorbike, saw the car and thought it not unusual in the country to see a car presumably abandoned as this one appeared to be. But as they were passing, a hand was furiously waving out of the window. There they found the wife giving mouth to mouth resuscitation to her slumped husband. My son dashed home to his wife — "Quick, go and see what you can do".

She mounted the bike, rode furiously, her husband following in the car with two pre-school children. With help she dragged the apparently dead man from the car, gave him cardiac massage and mouth to mouth, feeling the futility of it all, yet a comfort to the distraught wife, that **someone** was trying to help.

The District Nurse arrived complete with oxygen and medical supplies, but his life had already gone, she felt, when he slumped.

It was a **WD member** who rang to inform relatives what had happened, and then transferred the contents of the abandoned car to another, while waiting for ambulance, Doctor and Police to arrive.

It was suggested the widow be taken to a **WD member's** home and given hot sweetened tea, to allay shock, while awaiting relatives to arrive.

The District Nurse brought her down, she herself was glad of the lunch supplied for her and the Doctor (as it was past their lunch hour) — while we at home could only listen to the widow's expression of grief — related in the sharing of his building a new house for them, the stopping of the car on the hill and getting her a drink of water for a

bout of coughing, all the precious needs of sharing.

"I'm so happy for memories of the lovely days we shared together".

The incidents of that day were recounted long after and the words of the District Nurse rang in my ears as I reflected on the vital part our WD members played.

She said: "It's good to have people like you around".

How true it is "that in the big things of life we are one".

We **were** one, in sympathy for the bereaved one, in offering the service of our homes and hands, no self seeking, "but by service simply given, but to me it was rather special, for it was the heart-felt expression of the men too, (some of whom were Farmers Federation members), coupled with WD members that made me proud to belong to such an Organisation as ours, with its outreach to so many varied needs.

"In life, in death, in the big things of life we are one".

Granny Jack's Garden

by
Noeleen Kerr

We lived a long walk from school and Granny Jack's cottage was a welcome halfway haven. There we could lie in the shade with a drink of her ginger pop or cluster around the warm black stove in winter, to drink cocoa before attacking that last weary stretch of the road home.

Now so many years later, the clearest memory is the same for us all. Not that welcoming kitchen, the wide doorstep guarded by lavender and geraniums or the gravel path swinging round past the great walnut tree to the back door.

It was the flowers on either side of those grey pebbles that captured our childish imaginations. In that sweep from gate to house there was a perfect magical world whatever the season, loved and cared for by the tiny lady we adopted as Granny.

Her no-coloured hair was a plaited wreath, circling a bony crinkled face with eager brown eyes filled with sunshine. Eyes filled with all the joys and pain of over seventy years of living. She was vital and alive, weeding and hoeing and admiring, with the rebirth of spring or the splendid passing of summer.

Granny could turn a slow stroll into an exciting wonderland trip, as the stories were told and retold. We were taught all about mussie tussies. "Always remember it must carry a message", she instructed us. "A rose in the centre for love, rosemary for remembrance, violets for shyness and so on," as we made our clumsy posies. Hope came with the snowdrops and fame with scarlet tulips as we slowly learnt her flower language.

Among the flowers we watched the insect world. Oh yes, we tracked grasshoppers and followed snail trails, even had a frog catch in the pond at the back. Sometimes on long summer afternoons there was time to climb the great walnut tree. High up in the branches it was amazing how childish tragedies dissolved and you wanted to clutch at the clouds in the realm of the fairies. As winter came and the nut harvest fell our Mothers sent us with boxes and baskets to help gather them. Some went home with us and Granny sold the rest at the local store.

"Did you know, in Ireland they had lavender lawns and you cut them with a scythe?" We had visions of all the marvellous perfume during the cutting.

The first violets, those lovely deep purple ones, were always eagerly awaited and always a story went with the finding. "Go a mothering and find violets in the lane," was a favourite quote. "It was an old custom in the days of Queen Elizabeth that the children one Sunday in Lent, gave their Mothers simnel cake and violets". She told us too, that long ago salads were made with violet leaves and onions and the flowers were good for headaches.

Ivy is for fidelity we were told. We had no idea what that meant but it sounded so grand we never enquired.

The big fat white daisies were ever so special and we used to crawl among them to see who could find the biggest one. "The flower of innocence," according to Granny and what lovely fluffy balls of innocence they were, as they poked out among larkspurs and pink coral flowers.

Even the elderberries had a story. "They keep the witches away," she would whisper. Imagine, witches and potions right there. We were all suitably impressed when we saw an elderberry from then on.

Bluebells and crocus, poppies and snapdragons, roses and granny bonnets all had a story as they raced through the seasons to be exchanged for the flames of autumn that died into winter's sleep. Our Mothers insisted that we help Granny Jack rake leaves and gather weeds before the frosts came. Looking back now it was little in return for the happy times we had, the stories, cocoa and summer shade.

Suddenly she was gone. Quickly and without any pain they said, right there among the flowers she loved. We missed her but we were growing up and moving away into our own new lives, and it was a long time before we realised how much was learnt in that garden.

So many years later the cottage and garden are gone. Only the great walnut tree remains proud and lonely, perhaps dreaming of happier times when children crunched down the path, or climbed the great branches to be with the fairies in the clouds.

With Dot Wild at Great Barrier

Maoris were first inhabitants

The Barrier abounds with stories of past settlement and industry. Maoris were the first inhabitants, an agricultural people, as old pa sites and relics of food storage reveal. Land was bought from the Maoris as early as 1838, European settlement starting at Port Fitzroy and spreading throughout the island as cart-tracks were made through the bush.

The first industry was the cutting of ti-tree about 1860 for supplying firewood to Auckland, some 200 tons per week being sent by 1890. At the same time there was some mining — copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver and antimony but it gave out around 1908.

Timber milling (mostly kauri) was important. In 1888 the Kauri Timber Company bought out the local company and there followed intensive milling of all the remaining hinterland kauri resource except for some inaccessible pockets of virgin kauri notably around the summit of Mt Hobson.

The largest sawmill in the Southern Hemisphere was built (1910) and logs rafted from Coromandel Peninsula and Bay of Islands also, were milled there, with timber being exported directly to Australia and Europe. Some 55 to 90 million feet of timber extracted in 59 years of operation is recorded.

The NZ Forest Service took over the forest in 1943 and young kauri, and other native tree regrowth has

been in hand since 1955. There is a forest sanctuary, Wairahi, in the SW corner of the State Forest.

All that remains today of the timber industry are wharf piles at Whangaparapara Harbour (the former site of the giant sawmill) and the remains of three kauri dams across the headwaters of the Kaiarara Stream, just below Mt Hobson.

It was a prodigious feat building these dams; machinery had to be carried up in pieces and reassembled at the site — a place with solid rock foundations to hold the first cross-ways 50ft stringer imbedded. An enormous gate-like structure was built to hold the water and logs, the gate was tripped and a deafening torrent of foaming water and logs swept down the valley to the sea.

The tripping of the smaller dams upstream was timed with precision and no little danger to workers down stream. We wonder how all this could have been achieved without modern technology and

machinery. Brains, brawn, determination and necessity — and bullock power — got things done in those days, an eye-opener to all succeeding generations.

Evidence of gum-digging, whaling and early farming also still remains, but vegetation is slowly taking over. Production for markets has always suffered from lack of regular and dependable shipping to Auckland and elsewhere, and many likely ventures have been inhibited by the high cost of freight from the Island.

Parochialism in the past among the residents themselves as to which would be the chief port, and the viability of business from a mere 300 or so population has ultimately disenchanted a number of shipping lines from trying to provide a continuous service to the Island.

A fish-packing business and pack-horse crayfishing are more recent ventures (in the 60's and 70's) but the fishing has since deteriorated, "Japanese trawlers" say the locals, and only about three hands were kept on at the packing plant.

In spite of higher costs than on the mainland, the vagaries of the weather, and not highly productive land, some farmers have succeeded, their large holdings yielding an income comparable to elsewhere — mainly from run cattle and sheep farming.

Small generators for power have given way to larger ones, and electric stoves and appliances — and Tv — are now possible amenities in the permanent homes. Although the residents population is still only about 300 to 400, two-thirds of whom are around the southern part

(Tryphena area) tourists, campers, trampers and "boaties" make the Barrier a busy place in the summer holiday season.

TOURIST POTENTIAL

There are established cruise ships that explore Hauraki Gulf and make calls at various ports around the Barrier, probably unloading cargo (building materials, food and machinery, etc) and taking aboard cargo from the Island (wool and firewood for example). There are a number of lodges or guest houses with motel units and these are likely to increase with use being made by air transport. The "Sea Bee" flies in regularly from Mechanics Bay, Auckland, to Port Fitzroy a 25 minute flight and is well patronised by hikers with gear. (A spacious hut is provided by the Forest Service not far up the road from Fitzroy).

The Forest Service also conducts a programme of guided walks through the Christmas holidays. A taxi service is available for destinations further afield. There are hot springs and popular beaches on the eastern side; plenty of attraction and opportunity for diving, swimming and fishing; walking tracks everywhere, many of them following the old logging tramways and making for easy walking.

Birdlife is plentiful — tuis, grey warblers, pigeons, kaka parrots, kingfisher and fantails, are commonly seen and heard. Four rare and protected species are the black petrel (nests in burrows in the forest floor), Cooks petrel (around the summit of Mt Hobson), the native brown teal duck (in swampy eastern flats) and the kokako (in the northern bush).

A gannet colony on Mahuke Island is worth visiting — with permission from the owners. (Incidentally, Mrs Ngawaka was formerly Elaine Matiu from Ahipara).

Unfortunately when we visited, the birds had dispersed en masse, leaving only three "vackward" youngsters, not yet able to fly, flopping about warily among the countless hollowed out middens of feathers and flotsam where the birds had nested, completely covering the barren, exposed headland.

There are also some rare NZ plants more commonly found on Great Barrier — a prostrate ti-tree (*Leptospermum sinclairii*), and *Metrosideros parkinsonii* (around and on top of Hirakimata) and the Dunbar daisy (*Olearia allomi*) found in scrubland. Like the rare wildlife these are protected species.

SHIPWRECKS

No report of Great Barrier (Aotea, named by Captain Cook for the obvious protection it gives to the Hauraki Gulf), would be complete without reference to the many shipping mishaps that have occurred around its rocky shores. More than a score of vessels have met their end since 1863 when the 43 ton schooner "Elizabeth" was driven ashore at Tryphena in a gale. Stormy winds, savage seas and being pounded on rocks, have taken their toll.

The most spectacular and the most tragic disaster was the loss of the "Wairarapa" in October 1894. This very up-to-date, 2000 ton three-class passenger vessel left Sydney with about 350 people, ran into a heavy nor-east swell after

Three Kings and then into impenetrable fog. The master had her ploughing on at full speed in spite of protests from other officers, and she finally ground into the cliffs at Miners Head with terrible impact, just after midnight.

We passed by this awesome, forbidding piece of coastline on our way to the "Needles", the sight of that barren stretch of sheer cliff wall, conjuring up all too readily the terror and panic of that midnight collision. Distress rockets were unnoticed — there was no-one around that area to see them. Lifeboats were launched with difficulty, some overturned, some were stove in, others were already damaged. Some survivors were landed on a narrow ledge where they huddled in the cold for 36 hours, half-naked, before help came. There was no beach to run up on, except twelve miles away, where one boat-load stumbled ashore, and alerted a farmer, and settlers came from all quarters to assist in rescue attempts. Some hardy souls clinging to wreckage or masts were finally carried away by the brutal seas. The captain himself was drowned with about 40 others, when the bridge tore loose and collapsed into the sea. 134 people altogether were reported lost, searches of the shoreline went on for weeks, and the dead were given burial by local settlers. It was the most sadly gruesome event in the Barrier's history.

A second sensational wreck (May, 1922) was that of the 12,000 ton freighter "Wiltshire" which foundered in daylight, in the poor visibility of a howling, thundering gale, on saw-edged reefs below 100 foot cliffs at Rosalie Bay, eight miles round the southern coast

from Tryphena., Fortunately, there was no loss of life, the 103 officers and men being eventually rescued after the most hair-raising efforts to get lines ashore and convey men to safety. Equipped with radio and able to send out distress signals, the stricken ship soon had other vessels to the rescue, and all the crew were finally landed a full two days after the vessel had struck. Today's radio, radar and more reliable engines have helped reduce the grisly toll on shipping.

WELL-KNOWN FAMILIES

Some familiar names are heard frequently in conversation and appear constantly in reading about the Barrier. Two families, well-known in Kaitia the Flinns and the Werners, have early connections with the Barrier. By the third generation of six sons and several daughters, the Flinn holding totalled some 2500 acres, acquired through hard work with the timber, firewood and gold-mining industries. Great-great grandson, Peter, has inherited a silver engraved teapot presented to the family by the Union Steamship Company in gratitude for care given to survivors of the "Wairarapa".

The first Werner (Charles) was a German watchmaker who turned his hand to mechanical work on timber and mine machinery. He married one of the Flinn daughters and there were sons, Oscar, Harold and Carl.

Other family names are perpetuated in geographical features and places; Port Abercrombie; Medlands Beach and Valley; Claris (the

administration centre and airfield from the name of the engineer responsible for their development); "Cooper's" (an early guesthouse), "Cooper's Castle" (rocky landmark); Taylor's Bay (the scene of murder, mayhem and attempted abduction).

Tryphena was named after a schooner that was built there. Ship-building was a thriving industry at one time, some ships serving the trans-Tasman route. Most Barrier folk are adept at boating and sailing, their lives so often depending on mastery of the sea in all its moods.

To an impressionable visitor it is easy to understand the lasting, indeed ever-lasting, attraction exerted by the Barrier. Once visited, that magical island beckons again and again. The Webster family for instance are firmly rooted in Smokehouse Bay, and every trip sees improvements added to their picturesque little property. Their own mini-network of walking tracks — which visitors are invited to explore — are regularly cleared and more trees, mostly native, are planted and lovingly tended. The same interest is shown in visits to a rocky dumpling of an island in the bay, where the lee side now has a grove of interesting flora, nestling in pockets of rich soil.

Any lover of the outdoors, one who enjoys walking in the bush, fishing, swimming, snorkelling, more strenuous tramping, or just revelling in the glorious serenity of a peaceful uncluttered place, would be enchanted with The Barrier. Make it a must in your travels around New Zealand.

STATIONERY AVAILABLE FROM HEADQUARTERS

WDFF Letterhead Paper

Provincial/Branch Writing Pads (50 sheets, duplicate with carbon)	\$1.60
Provincial Writing Pads (100 sheets) 'while stocks last'	\$1.60
Branch Writing Pads (50 sheets, duplicate with carbon) 'while stocks last'	\$1.60

Finance Stationery

Subscription/Membership cards (book of 50)	.75
Provincial Receipt Books	Free
General Receipt Books (carbon)	.40
Branch Cash Book — Receipts	\$1.60
Branch Cash Book — Payments	\$1.60
Branch Treasurer's Guide	.60

General Stationery

Life Membership (Branch/Provincial) includes badge	\$33.00
Secretaries Guidelines	Free
Meeting Procedure Leaflet	.20
Invitation Card (plain with coloured crest)	.20
Invitation Card (plain with blue crest)	.10
Gift Card (folded with coloured crest)	.18
W.D. Song and Music Sheet	.10
W.D. Song and Creed Folder	.10
A.C.W.W. Song of Peace	.05
Calendar Diaries "New Look"	.60

Regalia

Branch Badges — President (3 bar)	\$3.00
Secretary/Treasurer (2 bar)	\$3.00
Vice President (2 bar)	\$3.00
Member	\$3.00
Provincial Badges — President	\$3.00
Secretary	\$3.00
Treasurer	\$3.00
Housekeeper Secretary	\$3.00
Bars of Honour (Branch and Provincial)	\$5.00
A.C.W.W. Badge	\$3.00

Housekeeping Scheme

Housekeeper Manual (to H/K Secretaries)	Free
Housekeeper Manual (restricted to Provincial Presidents)	\$2.00
Replacement Manual (restricted to H/K Secretaries and Provincial Presidents)	\$2.00
All other Housekeeping Stationery	Free

POSTAGE

Please include 50 cents for postage on all orders less than \$5.

Garden of Memories

Miss Blanche Halliday, member of Oamaru Branch, a former treasurer and past president, holding life membership, and in her 95th year still a regular attendee at branch meetings. Her special interests were in baking and floral work, in which she gave willingly of her talents.

Mrs Flo Fowler, a life member of the Pakawau branch was in her 92nd year. In the 24 years that Mrs Fowler was a member of our branch she rarely missed a meeting. She was an advisory member and was president for eight years.

Mrs R. Dagg, aged 81 years, was an active member for 58 years and a foundation member of Ihuraua branch. She became a life member in 1954 and served as branch president, co-ordinating committee representative, provincial delegate and housekeeping advisory member.

During her lifetime in the country Mrs Dagg saw many changes. Earlier on when rural population was higher than now and holdings were much smaller, she experienced the trials of unsealed roads, milking cows and the hardships of the war years raising money, knitting socks and baking gingernuts for the soldiers as well as devising her own recipe for malt biscuits to add variety to the army diet.

As recently as 1982-83 Mrs Dagg won the branch Rose Bowl for her entries in competitions.

Mrs Aileen Simpson, Rangiwhia branch held every office and participated in all branch and provincial activities.

Mrs Anne Caroline McCaul, Brixton branch, North Taranaki, in her 89th year, helped form Brixton branch in 1932, was president for 21 years and was awarded life membership.

Mrs McCaul also helped form Waitara branch 30 years ago and was a foundation member of North Taranaki Provincial executive until she died.

Mrs Pearl Gerrard held office as president of Winton branch and served as secretary to central Southland Provincial executive. She was awarded provincial life membership.

Mrs Olive J. Bennett member of Westport branch 1946-77 held office as president, secretary, treasurer, press officer and advisory member. She was made a life member in 1964.

At provincial level Mrs Bennett worked for Buller provincial as secretary-treasurer, press officer and worked as a WD housekeeper.

(In latter years Mrs Bennett lived in St Andrews, Sth Cant.)

Mrs E. Beaton Rogers, Karamea branch served as president for many years undertaking the long journey from Karamea to Greymouth for provincial meetings as far back as 1937.

She became a life member in 1962.

Mrs Phylis Gibson, member of Dunroon branch remembered for her long membership and talent with flowers.

Mrs Joanne McCaulay, member of Waikouaiti branch for 30 years holding various offices including provincial president for Otago.

Florence Emily Kelly, Dominion member of honour, in her 97th year. Notification of Mrs Kelly's death came from her daughter, Barbara Coleman of Waihi Beach.

Mrs Gladys Thomas formerly of Mangateretere branch where she served as both president and secretary later transferred to Whakatu-Clive and held committee office and was a delegate at provincial level.

Mrs Poppe took the chair for our annual meeting in November, as she had done for several years. I think it was rather fitting that the last WD duty she performed was for our provincial, Wanganui.

She was a foundation member of the Wanganui branch, and of Forde 11, attending these meetings as a very young woman with her mother, Mrs Glasgow. We all know of her great love and concern for our organisation, and one of her particular interests was our liaison with the Federated Farmers and YFC. It was with great pleasure she told us she had accepted a very handsome cheque from the Rangitikei Federated Farmers, and had approached the Wanganui

Young Farmers likewise, for our current Diamond Jubilee fund, Eliminate Lepto. She wrote an article for the Countrywoman at the time of our golden jubilee. She concluded this by saying thank you Wanganui for planting the love of WD in my heart. We say thank you to her for her inspiration and dedication to our organisation and may we carry on with enthusiasm where she has so quietly slipped out. — Dulcie Middleton, Prov. President.

Mrs Gertrude Hilda Butt joined Koana branch in 1939 having held most positions of committee service during her lifetime.

Mrs Winifred Dye, Kaukapakapa branch was provincial president of Kaipara 1955-58 and a provincial life member.

In 1955 Mrs Dye planned the first provincial rally which has become the focal point of provincial activities.

Do you remember having rags in your hair to give you ringlets?

Do you remember polishing brass door-knobs and doorsteps?

Do you remember scrubbing your bench with sandsoap and smearing it with lemon juice to bleach it?

Do you remember having a once-a-week dose of licorice powder or castor oil?

Do you remember the ice-carts delivering ice in rock salt to the dairies?

Can you remember when one could get two small ice-cream cones for a penny?

Do you remember asking for "specs" at the greengrocers?

Do you remember broken biscuits being given away for nothing by the grocer?

Can you remember the days when every grocery order had a bag of free sweets in it?

Can you remember how nasty medicine tasted before antibiotics were available?

Do you remember the big jars, blue, green, yellow, red, in pharmacy windows?

Do you remember the Chinese laundries where men's white detachable collars were made stiff and shiney?

A.C.W.W.

Sixth South Pacific Area Conference

(abridged from report by R. Oakley)

Held in February, and chaired by Miss Jean Smith, Area vice president, it was New Zealand's honour to host such a conference.

The venue in Christchurch was ideal, where the Ngaio March Theatre and its adjoining amenities combined with accommodation at Canterbury University Campus, Ilam, provided for 300 delegates from eight South Pacific countries. His Excellency Sir David Beattie opened the conference.

The combined church service affirmed the belief that all delegates are children of one Father and seek, as one family, to find peace.

The theme "Progress" was discussed in many ways.

Technological progress — was it going too far? Implications of I.V.F. and surrogate motherhood were discussed along with the differing needs for progress experience when one considers island villages without clean water and without telephones.

A.C.W.W. Projects Committee handles requests for help. Needs are diverse, according to the country of origin, and through the committee requirements are made known.

The writer considered the conference to have been "a splendid exercise in fellowship and understanding".

The dominating value of the family and the accompanying need for happy homes was felt to be paramount in meeting today's world-wide problems.

A.C.W.W.

International Youth Year

It would, perhaps, be understandable if women's organisations, caught up as they are in preparations for this year's United Nations Women's Conference in Nairobi, were to overlook the fact that 1985 is International Youth Year. Understandable, but short-sighted — if only for the obvious reason that half of those included in the term 'youth' (defined by the UN as those between the ages of 15 and 24) are women!

In fact, the UN has pinpointed "the

concerns and roles of young women in development" as one of the priorities for IYY. And another priority that women will wholeheartedly endorse is: "To promote community-based activities for health education, nutrition, family planning and other welfare services for youth to facilitate self-care."

But it would be a mistake to think of 1985 as a year when things are to be done for young people. The key word for IYY is participation. After all, 15 to 24-year-olds are not children. In many countries girls and boys of 15 (and under) are working full-time to help support their families. Some have brothers and sisters,

parents and grandparents who are completely dependent on them. Millions in this age group are already parents themselves. Millions more, while not having the same family responsibilities, are playing their part as responsible citizens, eager to make their contribution to society.

Yet to what extent are young people (any more than women) represented on decision-making bodies? How much real weight is given, in any sphere of life, to what they feel and think? In nearly every society, authority and power are vested in the older, experienced members of the community; the voice of "inexperienced youth" is disregarded. No wonder young people, especially in industrialised societies, often feel themselves to be a race apart — a feeling that advertisers, record companies and others are all too ready to exploit.

So one of the aims of International Youth Year is to "heighten awareness of the situation of youth, and of their needs and aspirations, among decision-makers and the public". Another is to "promote policies and programmes relating to youth as an integral part of social and economic development, according to each country's experience, conditions and priorities".

But perhaps the key objective of the Year is to "enhance the active participation of youth in society and in particular the promotion and the achievement of development and peace". This is a reminder to us all of the ideals that brought the United Nations Organisation into existence — ideals that need to be reaffirmed by each succeeding generation.

Young people, despite the formidable problems they face in the world today — poverty, unemployment, poor health care and inadequate education, violence and fear of nuclear war, drug and alcohol addiction, racism — are still, for the most part, idealists. As Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, put it, "Young people everywhere are aspiring to a world of justice and opportunity. They are seeking remedies to the power-

ty that besets much of mankind and an end to the arms race."

If young people seek to cut themselves off from the society they live in, it's the community as a whole that suffers. The message behind IYY is that we should listen to the young, pay attention to their needs, and recognise and welcome the contribution they can make.

To find out about IYY activities in your country, contact your national coordinating committee, whose address can be obtained from the nearest UN Information Centre or UN Development Programme office.

Unemployment and youth

Unemployment in the European Economic Community runs at about 11 per cent and 40 per cent of those unemployed are under 25. A report published last year by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) predicted that youth unemployment would rise sharply during 1984. In Spain, the forecast was that 43.8% of the youth labour force under 25 would be out of work; in Italy, 34%; in France, 27.5%; in the UK, 23.5%. In the USA, the forecast was for 17% youth unemployment; in Canada, 21.5% and in Japan, 5.5%.

Among solutions suggested by the OECD were: reversing the rise in real labour costs relative to labour productivity; focusing bargaining on job creation rather than higher wages; restructuring working time; employment subsidies in the private sector and job creation schemes in the public sector. At the European Parliament's special session on unemployment held last year, suggestions for tackling the problem included a significant reduction in daily, weekly and yearly working hours, and training schemes to help young people set up small businesses and take part in environmental protection schemes and co-operatives.

Old and Young

Mrs Leone Batchelor of Orongo branch is 92 years old and still attends meetings regularly. She first joined WD as a foundation member of Motueka branch.

a3 Youngest member of Orongo branch is Evelyn Hoddinott, aged 20-30 years.

Mrs Jean Holmes of Mitcham-Roheby branch attends meetings with her 12-year-old daughter who is also a member. Mrs Holmes, a branch life member, wanted to continue her association with the branch after she moved into Ashburton. Both mother and daughter will be at Rotorua Conference.

Oamaru branch member Mrs M. Cockburn turned 95 on March 31 this year and first joined WDFF in Matura in 1931. She has been associated with

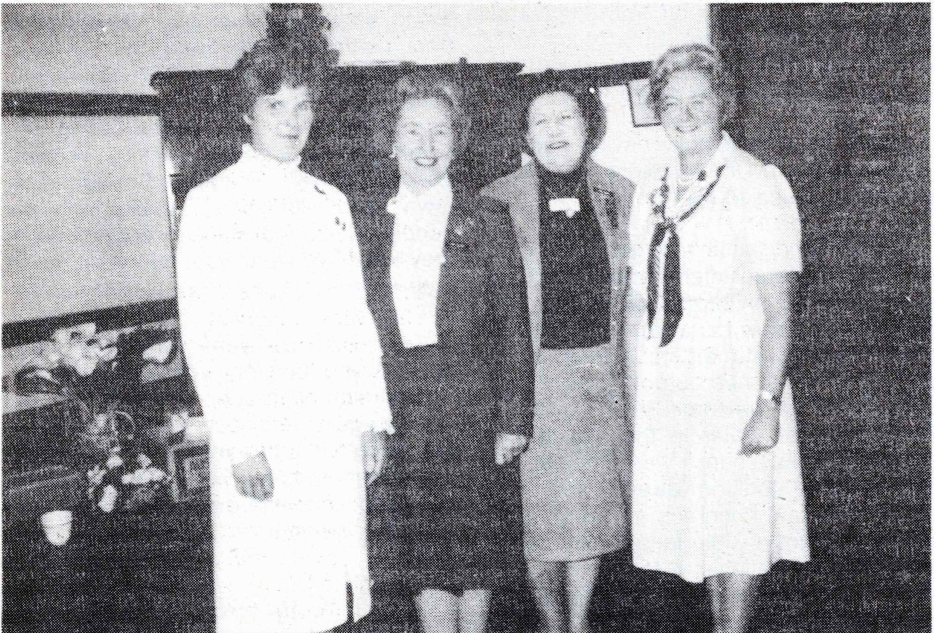
Oamaru since 1952 and is still a regular attender.

The youngest member in Oamaru is already a grandmother, but despite that, all members are young in spirit and proud of the full part they play in division affairs.

We regret that we did not receive a photograph and report of Mrs Violet Lemberg of Oparure branch who received a Bar of Honour in recognition of 25 years as secretary of the branch.

Long Service

Woodend-Waikuku branch has had one treasurer for twenty-seven years. She is Mrs Enid Turnbull, who is still going strong.



Mrs P. Moses, Provincial president, South Canterbury, with Mrs J. Evans, who was presented with life membership by Mrs A.D. Talbot. Mrs J. Tarbottom chaired the AGM at Hook Branch.

My South African experience

We are all guilty, at one time or another, of making snap judgements without experience or knowledge of the subject in hand. Let me confess my guilt.

It happened this way. Having served my turn in WDFF as Branch President, chairman of first "Honda" committee, provincial president and now a Member of Honour, I decided that travel would be "my thing".

After two overseas holidays I became a tour escort for a local travel company. One would not suppose that leading a tour would be an "egg in the face" experience, yet it turned out to be so.

In the late 1970's my "tour boss" dropped a bombshell. Less than a week before I was to leave NZ with a party to the UK and Europe, orders were that I was to see my tour party off from Heathrow back to NZ then go to South Africa for a month, on a fact-finding stint around that country preparatory to future tours.

I went most reluctantly having had my head filled with the opinions of HART which I believed to be true.

My husband came too. We arrived at the Johannesburg international airport to see dozens of uniformed police and soldiers, armed with automatic rifles, pointed directly at me! First splash of egg on face. They turned out to be the Guard of Honour to welcome their country's Prime Minister. Later in the day at our hotel in Johannesburg I was sitting at the bay window looking directly into the street and saw hundreds of blacks hurrying past. Not a white face to be seen. I asked the receptionist if there were any white people in the city. She roared with laughter and explained that the railway station was around the corner. "The Black people are catching the train for home" — more egg.

Before dinner we went into the Lounge Bar for a pre-dinner noggins. My jaw hit the carpet. There were black men and women along with whites enjoying their drinks together. The egg on my face increased when the diners at the table next to us were black.

Next morning, Sunday, the Anglican Cathedral bells summoned us to worship. Blacks and whites sat together and took communion together. Egg on my face was now inches thick. I was thoroughly ashamed of myself for having listened to and believed the HART message.

On Monday we hired a car and took off to do as I had been bid. We travelled from north to south, from east to west, without any hindrance. Over mountains, across desert and plains, through rain forests, sugar cane fields, along the coastal route with its glorious scenery and wild flowers. We stayed in big cities, towns and villages and spoke with the people, black and white. Everyone, when they knew we were from NZ, went out of their way to make our visit memorable.

After we had seen South Africa I wanted only five minutes to set the record straight with John Minto. I have returned again and hope to make another trip soon. Should any of you wish to come and see for yourselves I will be happy to send the itinerary for the holiday of a life-time.

**Una Hawker,
12 Tasman View,
Wanganui.**

FIFTY YEARS ON

When Mrs May Shirley paid her first subscription, little did she realise that in over fifty years the organisation would mean so much to her. During the early thirties and being a Branch President, she began to realise the importance of WDFU as it was then, and attended her first Conference in the days when Mrs Wilson was Dominion President.

During the years they were in Kelso she took a keen interest, and remembers helping to raise funds to buy a Spitfire, for the Gore Rest Room, Forestry, and Riverton Holiday Home projects. Yes, they certainly worked during the Second World War, knitting, sewing, packing parcels for the 'boys', arranging send-offs, and welcome-homes.

They were in the middle of a depression, mostly young mothers with small children, they took their pre-schoolers to the meetings too. No play-centres or kindergartens in those days and no Social Security either. No-one thought of work outside their homes unless it was to help at hospitals, or to help some needy folks. It was all voluntary and no thought of wages.

In 1949 after having worked for twenty-six years in dairy factories, with her husband and family they decided to go north to Kaitaia, where for the next seventeen years they became farmers. Still interested in the organisation, Mrs Shirley became a member of the Kaitaia Branch, and for two-three year periods was President of the Far North Provincial.

During that time she organised a party of twenty-five members to travel to North Canterbury for two weeks. It was the first time many of them had ever been to the South Island.

The following year, Far North WDFU members were hosts to a party from North Canterbury, and showed them everything in the North taking them right up to North Cape, and even treated them to a cyclone.

The first interprovincial that was held in the Far North was attended by over two hundred people, and it was voted a great success. Later on Mrs Shirley was to chair two more interprovincials, both of which were interesting and successful.

When they retired from farming, a decision was made to live close to their eldest son who was farming near Well-sford. Mrs Shirley thought it would be lovely to have no WD commitments, but found that she missed it; so formed the Wharehine Branch and nearly every woman in the district joined. At Wharehine she was President for three years and then was talked into helping at "Scotlands" when the late Mrs Escott was retiring as hostess.

This was a position she held for over eight years, during which they had over five thousand guests and made many friends. As age was catching up on both Mrs Shirley and her husband, and had a new home awaiting them, she decided it was time to hand over to someone else.

They were happy to take up home life once again, and for the last seven years has been a happy member of the Kourawhero Branch. Apart from being a delegate to the Rodney Provincial, she now prefers to leave the work to younger members. Last year Mrs Shirley had the honour of winning the Silver Tray for most overall points, proving that she is still active in the WDFU.

Mrs Shirley has the honour of being a Life Member of Kaitaia Branch, and a Dominion Member of Honour, and considers that she has received a lot more from it than she has put into it.

Working alongside friends with similar interests, this worthwhile organisation has helped her to keep going for over fifty years.

May Shirley

Kelso — Ten years in office including a term as President. Kaitia Branch —

Seventeen years including several years in office as vice president, and advisory member. Fifteen years in Far North Provincial, including two three-year terms as President. Three years President Wharehine Branch. Eight years hostess at Scotlands Rest Home. Seven years Kourawhero Branch delegate to Rodney Provincial.

A housekeeper's viewpoint

I was hoping for a break, to have time in our lovely garden, a time to relax and to regain my strength, when I received a call from our Housekeeping Secretary: Would I go to this family where the mother had found she could not cope in the meantime with the situation of home and family!

I was to leave at once, and after checking my little car for fuel, tyres and oil and packing my bags and saying my goodbyes, I set off. I needed to travel over 100 miles and I knew that most of my journey would be slow driving. As I approached my destination (the last 10 miles was very slow going, but the most glorious views were to be seen, to sea over rugged farmland and to the mountains. I would enjoy these views on my outward journey), I began to feel apprehensive of what I would find; was I going to receive a pleasant welcome? Would the children be amenable to someone new in the home, and were they reasonably disciplined, would the home be clean enough and also my bed to be, be clean. There were five people to get to know, would they be fussy eaters.

A neighbour met me on the road and pointed me in the right direction. When I eventually arrived it was to find the mother in bed very happy to see me, a roast for dinner in the oven, thanks to the neighbour, the home tidy and the children about to arrive home from school.

After a week of rest the mother went to visit relatives and I was left with the

father and boys who needed no entertainment. The mother very wisely encouraged the children to find their own activities in their spare time.

It was an enjoyable stay of two weeks and the first of many occasions in that home.

The family soon grew up and the need passed for their mother to have a rest and change from her very busy life. What started out as an emergency housekeeping position, became one of pleasure. I was to enjoy the views from that narrow winding road many times before the years passed.

Not all positions are as attractive as this one, but one must take the good with the bad. Normally it is always easier to manage a home and children where the housekeeper is in sole charge even though she is doing the work of both parents. She gets into her own routine and life can go along very smoothly.

Applicants for the housekeeping service must remember that the housekeeper is not there to spring clean, but just to maintain the standard of the home and more importantly to look after the children.

Adna Poppe Made Great Contribution to Women's Affairs

A Marton woman, Mrs Adna Poppe, JP, who made an outstanding contribution to women's organisations at local, provincial and national level and was honoured in 1977 by being awarded the Queen's Service Medal, died while convalescing at her daughter's home in Pukekohe after a short illness.

Mrs Poppe held the rare — possible unmatched

record of having five life memberships conferred upon her in appreciation of her services to various organisations.

Mrs Poppe, who had reached her 79th year, gained New Zealand recognition for her work with the Women's Division of Federated Farmers and the National Council of Women.

She was associated with the Wdff for some 59 years, was a Dominion Councilor for 11 years, and in appreciation of her work was elected a life member in 1972.

Apprenticeship

She served her apprenticeship with the Wdff with the Wanganui branch, of which she was a foundation member, and her activity continued when she moved into the Rangitikei district, being associated at executive level with the Rangitikei-Oroua Federation for some 32 years.

President of the Rangitikei-Oroua Provincial for 8 years and vice-president for 18 years, she finally was elected a life member in 1960.

In 1981 she had the rare honour of life membership conferred upon her by the Rangitikei Provincial District of Federated Farmers — a male organisation which recognised her worth to the farming community. She had been a member for 38 years.

For 33 years she was vitally concerned with the work of the National Council of Women, being the foundation president

of the Rangitikei branch, which was formed in 1957, in association with a former Mayoress, Mrs W. Meads.

Before joining the Rangitikei branch Mrs Poppe served on the Manawatu NCW for 8 years, and then had a long stint of 25 years with the Rangitikei organisation, serving as its president for 10 years after acting as vice-president for 8 years.

She was later elected a life member.

Strong Views

Mrs Poppe held strong views on women's affairs and was not afraid to express them.

As a member of the local NCW said this week in paying a tribute "Mrs Poppe stood firmly for what she believed. She was a great worker for the NCW. She attended many Dominion conferences and her views on many topics were sought. She was a great stalwart for Rangitikei."

She was actively associated with the NZ National Party, in particular the Rangitikei electorate, and was a committee member of the Women's Section at the time of her death.

She will be especially remembered for the encouragement she gave to young people to take an active part in community affairs and politics.

Her mind was active until the end of last week. While in hospital she had written to the Minister of Finance (Mr Douglas) complaining about his 1984 Budget

and was writing to the Prime Minister (Mr Lange) to tell him of her displeasure at the way the Budget had discriminated against superannuitants.

She was delighted by the number of "young people" who cared enough for her to visit her in hospital.

Closely Involved

While her activities with the Wdff, the NCW and the National Party were almost a fulltime occupation, she still found time to be involved in other organisations.

She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Edale Home, for 10 years a member of the Christian Welfare Council in Marton, and for 12 years served on the Marton Opportunity Shop committee.

After 25 years with the Friends of Turakina Maori Girls' College she became a life member.

She took a keen interest in the Country Girls' Club movement, being at one time patroness and senior advisory member at both club and district level.

In 1966, when Federated Farmers of New Zealand celebrated its 21st birthday, it was Mrs Poppe who baked and deco-

rated in her farm home kitchen, at "Elmdale", Marton, the birthday cake which was the centrepiece at the cocktail party for delegates to the Dominion conference of the Federation, held in Wool House, Wellington.

Measuring 12 inches square at the base and just over 8 inches high, the cake was decorated with small farm animals and intricately piped with icing.

Mrs Poppe made the cake on behalf of the Wdff as a gift to the Federation.

Early Years

Mrs Poppe (nee Glasgow) was born in Wanganui in 1906 and educated at the Fordell primary school and Wanganui Girls' College.

After her marriage, she and her husband, Mr F.J.T. (Jim) Poppe farmed a property on Pukepapa Road, Marton. When her husband died in 1966 she carried on the 250-acre sheep farm with the assistance of a married couple.

Six years ago she moved from the farm homestead to another house just a stone's throw away, where she continued to live until her illness.

SUBSCRIPTION — 'N.Z. COUNTRYWOMAN'

In response to the many requests we have received, Women's Division is pleased to announce that Countrywoman will be posted to NON MEMBERS for a \$9.00 per annum annual subscription.

Please fill out the details below and return to:

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Women's Division Federated Farmers of N.Z. (Inc.)

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I enclose cheque/postal note/money order for \$9.00.

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BRANCH BRIEFS

Wakapuaka Branch honoured Mrs V. Thompson with life-membership to mark her 51 years of service to the branch.

Hororata Branch. Mrs Doreen Rowe gave a report on Friends of the Hospital — who are knitting woollen singlets, bootees and making body washers. These are to be donated to the Darfield Hospital to issue to babies that are in need of these essential woollen garments to avoid pulmonary complaints.

Members and non-members are welcome to join this group.

Members hosted two Fijian delegates who attended the A.C.W.W. South Pacific Conference.

Whakatane members visited a ceramics factory recently as many of their number enjoy pottery as a hobby.

The instructor at the factory showed the various stages from moulding to the finished article.

Several classes are held each day allowing students to select the article of their choice from a collection already at the "green" stage. Those chosen as rubbed-down, fired, painted, fired again and finally glazed. Some items require four firings.

The finished product is usually less than half the cost of a similar retail item.

Auroa Branch once more provided the district with entertainment, competition and food, when the Auroa Federated Farmers staged their 64th annual cattle show.

In the hall the ladies provided a mini flower and craft show for the local school children, and a babies' and tots' beauty parade. A microwave oven cooking display, wood turning and spinning and patchwork provided centres of interest.

Lunch was provided and sold by W.D.F.F., while outside a bring-and-buy stall and food stall was again popular.



Mrs McInnes planting an English Oak in The Women's Division Reserve at Hampden, during her visit to the North Otago Branches.



Rejuvenation Brings a New Branch

NAPIER BRANCH FORMED

The Dominion President Mrs Elsie McInnes, accompanied by the Hawkes Bay Provincial president, Mrs Mary Gordon, and Provincial secretary Mrs Doris Ireland, were delighted to attend a gathering of ladies at the home of Mrs Ngaire Alding in Te Awa Avenue.

Those present decided to form a branch of Women's Division Federated Farmers using the name, Napier Branch. Under

Mrs McInnes' guidance the following officers were elected:

President: Mrs Pauline Bryhan. Vice President: Mrs B. Howell. Secretary: Mrs Ida Bergman. Treasurer: Mrs Linda Folpp. Committee: Mesdames Robin Lewis, Ngaire Alding, Sandra Hayes and Kath Kenward.

Mrs McInnes spoke of the work of the Wdff in the past, of the sum of \$70,000 raised for research into cot deaths, of the housekeeper service and especially of the present project of raising \$100,000 for further research into leptospirosis which causes untold suffering to animals and humans, not only on farms but to the long chain of people who handle farm animals. She also spoke of the student

bursaries and the many causes helped by grants from the Wdff Te Kiteroa-Scotlands Charitable Trust.

The newly formed branch was assured of the welcome and support of the other branches by the Provincial president, Mrs Mary Gordon, and Mrs Doris Ireland was thanked for taking notes of the inaugural meeting. A telegram was received from Dr Bill Sutton, MP Hawkes Bay, offering congratulations and help. Afternoon tea was served by Mrs Ngaire Alding and Mrs Sandra Hays.

Mrs Nancy Riddick, Hawera president, added five new members to the roll in 1984 and already in 1985 she has gleaned another five. Branch membership now stands at 35.

PROVINCIAL POINTS

Northern King Country Provincial recently combined with Waitomo to form a new executive to be known as **Northern King Country-Waitomo**.

The Annual Garden Party of the **Kaipara Provincial Wdff** was held at the home of Fay and Robin Brown, Te Pua School Road Helensville. The extensive grounds gave plenty of room for the several stalls — a competition to test the ability of members to recognise pantry supplies by smell alone, a game of croquet, and a fishing contest in a barrel using magnets at the end of the line and paper fish with a metal clip.

Everyone enjoyed the excellent lunch and all were pleased with the amount raised for Division work.

Canterbury Provincial. By a strong coincidence, almost to the date 23 years ago that "Stratheona" closed its doors to training young women to be housekeepers, Mrs Jill Bromley spoke on the course that had been started by the Principal of

Rangi Ruru Girls' School, the training of "Nannies" and housekeepers to be.

Mrs Jill Bromley was chosen as the director, with responsibility for selecting 20 students from the applications received, working out the curriculum and employing tutors. The course will include preserving, cooking, child rearing, mending, home skills and health. She was saddened by comments that the course is elitist both in the type of student it has attracted and in the type of people who will employ housekeepers.

The cost of the course is \$2000 a year and students must find their own board. Mrs Bromley was quick to point out that housekeepers were in demand and that the course would be giving housekeepers a professional qualification.

It was hoped that the Department of Education would approve it as a tertiary institution so that students would then be able to receive the standard tertiary bursary.

The Canterbury Provincial is considering whether to raise money to sponsor a Women's Division member's daughter to attend the course in the future.

DELECTABLE FRUITS OF THE PAST

Where have they gone? Sacrificed to commercialism? I remember a huge Damson plum tree, nearly a hundred years old, where I used to live. In the same orchard there was a huge Medlar. I got buckets full of deep brown fruit off this tree from which I made the best of all jellies. An old grape vine grew near, to say nothing of a striped apple that must have been an Irish peach. Where can one get a Northern Spy Apple these days?

When I went up north for a holiday I was taken to a yellow Hogan plum tree that grew in a hollow. By the size of that plum tree it must have been a hundred years old. Its huge branches bore cases and cases of the most delectable yellow plums. People from around the district came to gather the fruit. Although it was only January, lucious blackberries grew on canes. Needless to say, I returned home with plenty of plums and blackberries to preserve. My uncle planted an orchard in Massey. He came from Kent. Oh, those fat green gages he grew! Also Purple King and even one or two prunes, big golden quinces and an out-sized lemon which I believe was a citrus, sweeter than a lemon. What has become of the pie-melon and Mother's delicious pie-melon flans? When my third child was born I had the bright idea of planting a tree for each of them, and as my husband was an orchardist, what better than fruit trees? My husband demurred, but later planted some lemons, saying, "Won't a lemon tree do for the kids?"

In spite of his getting up and watering the lemon trees before the sun shone on them, the heavy frost killed them. When I suggested green gages, he replied, "They're not commercial. They wouldn't pay". He wouldn't even leave a sour Sultan to get ripe for bottling. Oh, those

peaches the old Maori women used to sell on the Auckland wharves. A flax kit full for a shilling. Those peaches dripped with sweetness.

And here is a story concerning a peach. My few fowls had grown old and it no longer paid to feed them. Being Leghorns they were unsuitable for the table. "I really must get rid of them," I thought. I dug a hole first outside their house, then armed with the axe, into their house I went. Such a friendly welcome I got that I just couldn't do the fowls a foul deed. But the hole I had dug had to be filled in. Carrying the axe and spade up to the shed, I spied a tiny tree growing in the hedge. It was too small to identify. I dug it up and planted it in the hole. Two years later, it bore several big yellow peaches. This tree continued to bear the best of bottling and jam-making peaches for years, and so thought the fine black steer from the next paddock.
— Elizabeth Freeman.

Once a thing of beauty was my garden

I was proud to show to all around who came

And when they asked for bits — no need for pardon —

I didn't always know the flower's name.

I planted trees from stones of fruit I bought

'Twas good to watch and wait for growth to start

And then to pick and make the jam, I thought

That they would always be, of me, a part.

But now alas, I find my strength is failing;:

I'm not as young as I once used to be

—
Someone else must now attend my garden,

But thankful am I, that I still can see!

G.H.P. Aug. 7th, 1982, aged 86 years.

PROVINCIAL HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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For our mutual protection, please pay all money by cheque, money order or registered mail.

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	WEEKLY	DAILY
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CHARGES

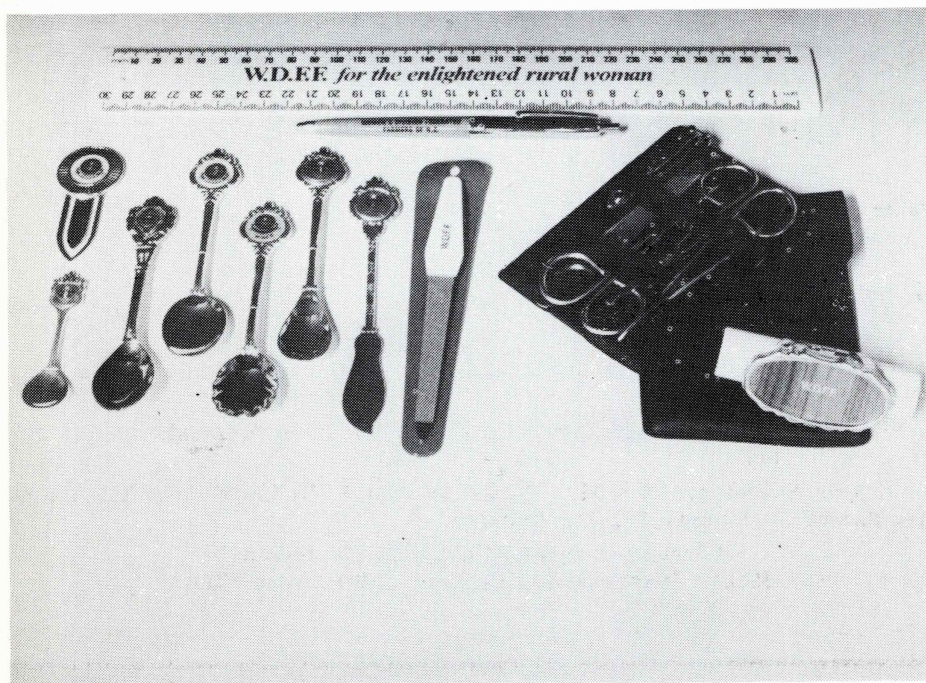
COTTAGES	\$20.00 per night (2 adults and up to 4 children)
	\$ 4.00 per night (each extra adult)
	\$ 1.00 per night (for each extra child)
2 CABINS (Sleep 4)	\$ 6.00 per night (for one adult)
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	\$ 3.00 per night (for each extra adult)
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